

Woman killed in Lebanon clashes

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — Resistance fighters traded artillery fire with Israeli troops and surrogate militiamen in South Lebanon Friday. Security sources said one woman was killed and two were wounded. The sources said the violence began at 10:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) when fundamentalist guerrillas of Hizbollah fired several anti-tank rockets in the hilltop Shoumariyeh position in an Israeli-occupied border strip in South Lebanon. Israeli gunners and South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen struck back with tank and mortar fire on the villages of Qabriha and Toulun, facing Shoumariyeh in the eastern sector of the strip known as the "security zone." A 48-year-old woman was killed in Qabriha and two others were wounded in nearby Toulun, according to the sources. The renewed hostilities came a day after Israeli warplanes blasted a Hizbollah hilltop base in South Lebanon. No casualties were reported in Thursday's sundown air strike, the second in eight days and the third since Israel on June 2 mounted its most lethal air assault in east Lebanon in a year, targeting a Hizbollah training base near the Syrian border.

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Two thousand march in Jericho

JERICHO (AFP) — About 2,000 Palestinians opposed to the autonomy agreement with Israel marched peacefully through Jericho on Friday, testing the new self-rule authority's commitment to freedom of expression. Carrying banners calling for "Resistance to self-rule," and "Jerusalem first, Gaza and Jericho last," men, women and teenagers walked up to the main police station. As they marched around town, two vanloads of armed Palestinian security forces followed them. Unlike Gaza, Jericho is generally a quiet town with little political activism, and Friday's march was the first of its kind since Palestinian self-rule began last month. The demonstrators consisted mainly of men and women bused in from towns in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Jibril Rajoub, head of intelligence in the new Palestinian authority, said the demonstrators had obtained permission for their march. He produced a letter addressed to the Palestinian authority in which the march organisers stressed they were unarmed.

Chinese seeks better ties with Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — China is eager to improve relations with Iraq, a Chinese official was quoted as saying on Friday at the end of a two-day visit to Baghdad during which he held talks with President Saddam Hussein. Foreign Ministry official Wang Chuanxi declined to speak to foreign reporters but the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted him as saying that China was "keen to bolster existing ties with Baghdad." A source close to Mr. Wang's delegation said the visit — the first since the 1991 Gulf war by a ranking Chinese official — was a "business trip" to explore possible Chinese participation in rebuilding Iraq when U.N. sanctions are removed. Mr. Wang "stressed the desire of several industrial establishments in China to resume bilateral relations with Iraq for the interest of the peoples of the two friendly nations," INA quoted him as saying in a meeting with Industry and Minerals Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan.

Simpson charged

LOS ANGELES (R) — Charges were filed Friday against football great O.J. Simpson in connection with the murders of his ex-wife and a male companion, the Los Angeles district attorney's office said. The office gave no further immediate details of the charges against Mr. Simpson, 46.

Judge imposes stiff sentences on Koresh followers

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A judge on Friday sentenced most Branch Davidians convicted in the shooting deaths of four federal agents to the stiffest penalties, closing another chapter for the religious cult that went down in flames. Largely following the recommendations of prosecutors, U.S. District Judge Walter Smith imposed sentences of up to 40 years on eight defendants convicted in the Feb. 28, 1993, shootout near Waco. The action came on the second day of a sentencing hearing for members of the cult. On Thursday, some of the followers of doomsday prophet David Koresh restated their innocence and refused to beg for leniency, while others asked for mercy.

Dollar falls

LONDON (AFP) — The dollar fell like a soufflé on Friday on the London foreign exchange market, while sterling was mixed and gold rose to \$387.85 an ounce in late afternoon against \$385.75 on Thursday. The dollar rose in the morning to a peak of 1.6380 marks, but then broke down through the 1.6280-mark resistance level to stand in late afternoon at 1.6215 marks against 1.63 Thursday.

Northerners keep up shelling as Aden seeks Security Council action

Combined agency dispatches

NORTHERN FORCES shelled the besieged southern stronghold of Aden, reportedly killing at least 36 people, and 900 foreigners who fled the city arrived in Djibouti on Friday. The heavy fighting in the six-week-old civil war came despite northern President Ali Abdullah Saleh's announced willingness to agree to a ceasefire.

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said the 36 deaths, most of them civilians, occurred within the previous 36 hours. It said the dead were among about 170 killed and wounded during that period. The agency, which has a correspondent in Aden, was monitored in Bahrain. Northern forces have been escalating their shelling of Aden in the last few days. Northern officials say they are not targeting civilian areas in their campaign to capture the capital of the breakaway southern state. Saleh's rival Ali Salem Al Beidh proclaimed May 20. But reports from the city indicate there have been scores of civilian casualties amid worsening shortages of food, water and medicines with the population of 350,000 swollen by refugees.

Faced with the "worsening situation," southern officials consulted with Gulf Arab states about the possibility of convening a new U.N. Security Council meeting, the south's "foreign minister," Abdullah Al Asnaj told AFP.

Saudi Arabia and Oman, current chairmen of the Security Council, were instrumental in winning the June 1 adoption of a Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire and the start of negotiations. Mr. Asnaj said he and the "prime minister" Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas would travel at the start of next week to Paris and other European capitals, then to United Nations headquarters in New York.

Four truces have collapsed since the resolution passed. There is disagreement on the composition of a military commission to supervise any ceasefire.

U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi arrived in Yemen June 8 to try and get the combatants to implement a U.N. ceasefire solution. He also has been talking to regional leaders about the conflict and was in Saudi Arabia on Friday. In Aden, the southern leadership urged the U.N. Security Council to brand Mr. Saleh and his government "war criminals." The northern-controlled Radio Sanaa meanwhile warned Aden's installations saying they would be targeted. In Aden, authorities handed out weapons to dozens of volunteers. Shelling by northern forces destroyed two vehicles at the city's power plant and set fire to a Japanese-flagged trawler which later capsized in the harbor. Southern troops fought hard to hold the defence lines just outside Aden. In the city's three recruitment centres, dozens of young men lined up to receive weapons and ammunition.

Colonel Abdul Wakil Abdul Hamid, an official at one centre, said he had received orders to give weapons to all residents 18 years and older, except Islamic militants suspected in recent car bombings. "They will have to walk over the bodies of the soldiers on the front and kill all the residents street by street before taking Aden," Qasem Ahmad, a 20-year-old militiaman, said. The south estimates it can recruit a militia of 30,000 people to boost its military forces, which are outnumbered by Mr. Saleh's troops.

Fighting raged meanwhile in the eastern province of Shabwa, where 30 northern soldiers were killed and another 80 wounded in the last two days, a southern military spokesman said. The people's resistance also launched attacks in Lahaj province, west of Aden, "inflicting heavy losses on the enemy," he said. Southern warplanes also stepped up their raids on northern troops in a bid to dislodge them from their positions around the city. Violent battles resumed on the Abyan front, 40 kilometres east of Aden, the Kuwaiti agency reported. It said southern warplanes flew more than 20 sorties and succeeded in halting the north's advance on that front. The evacuees to Djibouti included Americans, Britons, Tunisians and Palestinians, said Jean Francois Goly of the international committee of the Red Cross. They arrived in Djibouti aboard the ferry Canadian Spirit after sailing 250 kilometres overnight across the Gulf of Aden to Djibouti on the Horn of Africa.

U.N. coordinator Awmi Al Ani said the 75-metre ferry evacuated the foreigners Thursday as northern artillery shelled Aden.

The ferry was operated by the Geneva-based International Organisation for Migration, officials said. It was not immediately known if there would be further evacuations from Aden as Mr. Saleh's forces closed in. Hundreds of foreigners were evacuated from Sanaa, the northern capital soon after the war erupted. Mr. Saleh's assault brigades have battled to the outskirts of Aden and control a large swath of territory east of the former southern capital.

Carter's description on CNN of his North Korea talks whether Mr. Kim's formula included a promise to freeze his country's nuclear development. He has repeatedly insisted the nuclear programme is strictly peaceful, but the United Nations' nuclear watchdog agency says there is evidence it is meant to produce weapons.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) responded cautiously to the apparently conciliatory gesture by North Korea, saying details had to be clarified in the days ahead. The agency welcomed the pledge given by Mr. Kim to allow two agency inspectors in the country to remain. But it was too early to say whether Pyongyang was going to live up to its nuclear safeguards obligations, it said. "The main thing is to be able to monitor the declared seven (nuclear) sites we have visited in the past," IAEA spokesman David Kyd told Austria's Blue Danube radio. "At the moment there is a distinct lack of specifics and that would have to be clarified in the days to come," he said.

The inspectors were still in place at North Korea's nuclear complex at Yongbyon, 100 kilometres north of Pyongyang, and had contacted the Vienna-based agency on Friday morning. "They reported everything was fine and they are continuing to monitor refuelling at the reactor," an IAEA official told Reuters.

Relations between Hebron's 110,000 Arabs and 500 Jews have been tense since a settler massacred more than 30 Palestinian worshippers in a mosque on Feb. 25. The massacre led to the placement of international observer contingent, the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH). The contingent is made up of 160 observers from Denmark, Norway and Italy. On Friday, the TIPH members registered a complaint from Jewish settlers about smoke emanating from a nearby copper factory. Afterwards, they took part in Palestinian wedding feast.

The Israeli army fired live ammunition during clashes with youths throwing stones at them, during which four Palestinians were wounded, a Palestinian witness said.

He said all four were wounded in the legs and taken to hospital for treatment. The fifth was taken to hospital after being shot and wounded by Jewish settlers in the city centre, he said. "The settlers were trying to enter Bab Al Zawehy area and were confronted by Arabs. The settlers shot live ammunition at the Palestinians, wounding Ishaq Abu Sneh," the witness said.

Jewish settler spokesman Noam Arnon said there were no incidents in the market. He said settlers saw television camera crews in place before the clashes started, suggesting the Palestinians planned protests in advance. Relations between Hebron's 110,000 Arabs and 500 Jews have been tense since a settler massacred more than 30 Palestinian worshippers in a mosque on Feb. 25.

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World Cup kicks off

CHICAGO (R) — Sport's greatest extravaganza exploded into action on Friday when Germany faced Bolivia in Chicago's sizzling Soldier Field stadium for the opening World Cup game.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada watched singer Diana Ross join 2,000 dancers and flag bearers in a glitzy ceremony before kickoff at 2 p.m. (1900 GMT). Players and fans had to endure cauldron-style temperatures in the high 30s Celsius (high 90s Fahrenheit), a pattern likely to be repeated at most of the nine venues right up to the final in Pasadena on July 17. Spain and South Korea, also in Group C, were playing later at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.



The Colombian team, led by Carlos Valderrama (with flowing hair), in practice shortly before Friday's opening match (AFP photo)

As the big moment approached, soccer fans the world over began to throw themselves into a frenzy. In impoverished Albania, officials splashed out thousands of dollars on a huge outdoor television screen. In Zaire, the government promised to have the television and radio network, out of action for the past month, working by Friday's start. Germany, the champions, are put at 50-1.

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Israeli troops, settlers wound 6 in Hebron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded four Palestinians and a settler wounded another in Hebron on Friday in clashes arising from Arab-settler tensions, hospital officials said. A sixth Palestinian was injured when he fell from a high place while being chased, the officials said.

One of the injured was in serious condition from bullet wounds to his thigh, and the others were in moderate condition, they said. All of the injured were men aged 16-32. The army confirmed the reports, and said that five Palestinians were arrested in the clashes. Palestinian witnesses said the clashes began after settlers overturned stalls in the Hebron market.

"The Israeli army fired live ammunition during clashes with youths throwing stones at them, during which four Palestinians were wounded," a Palestinian witness said.

He said all four were wounded in the legs and taken to hospital for treatment. The fifth was taken to hospital after being shot and wounded by Jewish settlers in the city centre, he said.

"The settlers were trying to enter Bab Al Zawehy area and were confronted by Arabs. The settlers shot live ammunition at the Palestinians, wounding Ishaq Abu Sneh," the witness said.

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Israel plans to build new settlement in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Opponents of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace talks plan to occupy several dozen homes bought in Palestinian neighbourhoods, and the city's Israeli council intends a new Israeli settlement project for East Jerusalem, a city council member said Friday.

The settlement plans are part of a campaign by the right-wing ruled council to block compromise on Jerusalem. Abraham Kahilla, a former deputy mayor in charge of planning under ex-mayor Teddy Kollek, said Jewish extremists have secretly purchased a large amount of homes in Arab neighbourhoods including Silwan, Ras Al Amud, a turn on the Mount of Olives, and Abu Tor.

Mr. Kahilla, who still serves on the city council for the Labour Party, said the plans were mostly under wraps, but that he knew of several dozen houses purchased. He said money was raised privately for the project in the United States but that the fund-raising had assistance from Mayor Ehud Olmert's office.

Mr. Olmert's spokesman was not immediately available for comment. "The is serious in my eyes," Mr. Kahilla said in a telephone interview, arguing that such a move could "mess up peace efforts."

Mr. Kahilla said the city council also was told last week of plans to build a new Israeli settlement in a mostly uninhabited hilly region of East Jerusalem, near a Palestinian village called Wajaja.

The plans for 4,000 to 5,000 flats on the 2,000 dunam plot still lack approval, and are unlikely to go ahead for another two or three years, Mr. Kahilla said. Before building, the Israeli government would have to approve orders to confiscate property from Palestinians in the area, he said.

The Wajaja project would be in addition to a larger project for up to 20,000 Israelis planned on Har Homa, between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, which Palestinians have waged a five-year court battle to delay.

Mr. Tufaqi said Israel has also threatened to destroy 12 Palestinian homes built without permits in the area. The Israeli government should offer incentives to Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza to move to areas likely to remain under Israeli control, one of the country's elder statesmen has said.

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Palestinians argue that Israel's building plans are an attempt to create facts on the ground to cement Israeli control in the occupied territories before negotiations over the city's future, expected to begin in two years.

At one time the Palestinians were a majority on the eastern side, but there are currently more Jews there, because of housing built by Israel in the past 28 years.

Khalil Tufaqi, the PLO's top geographer in Jerusalem, said he has heard of plans to confiscate land in the Wajaja area for Israeli housing. He said Palestinian families had titles to the land dating to the Ottoman period or the early 20th century, and that they could take the case to court.

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PLO says Israel is violating accord on prisoner release

JERICHO (Agencies) — A leading Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) figure on Friday accused Israel of forcing the new self-rule authority to take released prisoners under conditions not specified in the agreement.

Negotiator Saeb Erekat said that while the agreement states that prisoners to be turned over to the authority serve out their terms in the self-rule areas of Gaza and the West Bank, it was not meant to cover political prisoners.

"This policy by Israel can only be understood as blackmail," Dr. Erekat told a news conference. He said the PLO interpreted the clause that said prisoners should serve out their terms as something that should be applied to drug dealers and other criminals.

Nabil Shaath, the chief PLO negotiator, said Israel and the PLO would start talks to try to resolve the fate of the hundreds of Palestinian prisoners on Sunday. Dr. Shaath told the Al Quds newspaper the two sides would negotiate "the release of Palestinian prisoners and their right to return to their homes on the West Bank."

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Relations between Hebron's 110,000 Arabs and 500 Jews have been tense since a settler massacred more than 30 Palestinian worshippers in a mosque on Feb. 25.

Shahak sees no deal with Syria this year

TEL AVIV (R) — A top Israeli peacemaker said in an interview published on Friday he doubted Israel and Syria would make peace this year.

"I don't believe this year it will be possible to complete the negotiations with the Syrians," Major-General Amnon Shahak, also Israel's deputy army chief, told the Davar newspaper.

"If the dialogue between us and the Syrians will not continue in '94, something special will have to be done to renew it afterwards," said Gen. Shahak, whose deal with the PLO launched Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho last month.

Gen. Shahak, who is not directly involved with the Syrian negotiations, said that based on his experience with the depth of problems that come up, it was highly unlikely negotiations with Syria could be finished by the year's end even if they were to begin in two weeks.

The Israeli foreign ministry declined comment on the report.

An editorial in the official Syrian newspaper Al Baath on Thursday said the United States and other sponsors of Middle East peace moves should not expect to see results this year without getting tougher with Israel.

Syria's talks with Israel have been stalled for two years despite numerous efforts by Washington to break the impasse over the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

With the first phase of Palestinian self-rule under way, Washington sees a Syrian-Israeli deal as the key to an overall Middle East settlement.

But comments in Syria's state media — the main guide to official thinking in Syria — have made clear Damascus is in no mood to compromise over its demand that Israel withdraw fully from the Golan Heights conquered in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Israel, favouring a phased, partial withdrawal, wants Syria to agree first to "full peace" including trade, open borders and embassies.

Officials and diplomats in Washington said on Thursday that an expected Middle East trip by Secretary of State Warren Christopher appeared increasingly unlikely.

Mr. Christopher — who has become the direct mediator between Israel and Syria, carrying proposals between them — has repeatedly said he is prepared to go to the Middle East when he thinks he can help the parties make progress.

An independent Dahaf poll of 510 Israelis for the Yedioth Achronoth newspaper on Friday showed them nearly evenly split on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's peace policy two years since he took office.

Forty-nine per cent gave his government good marks on the peace process while 51 per cent gave it a "no good" rating.

Islamic council hails U.S. Congress step on Bosnia

By Karouna Jadoun
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The International Islamic Council for Daw'a and Relief (IICDR), representing 50 organisations in the Muslim World, has enthusiastically welcomed a move in the U.S. Congress towards a unilateral American action to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The U.S. House of Representatives, following the example of the Senate, voted 244-178 on June 9 to amend a previous legislation, declared by the United Nations in September 1991, imposing an arms embargo on all former Yugoslav republics, including Bosnia-Herzegovina where Bosnian Muslims and Serbs are locked in fierce battles.

Senator Kamel Sharif, secretary general of the Cairo-based IICDR, sent letters to House of Representatives Speaker Thomas Foley and Congressman Frank McCloskey in which he expressed the Muslim people's "great relief" over the McCloskey-Gilman-Boniar-Hoyer amendment to "unilaterally lift the unjust, inhuman arms embargo imposed on the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Both letters, dated June 12, congratulated the House of Representatives for the "positive constructive initiative," stressing that this move was necessary to project the "tragedy of the innocent people of Bosnia-Herzegovina to a wider public all over the world."

In the letter to Mr. McCloskey, Mr. Sharif said

that Muslims "feel that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina have been the victims of a global game in which the victim was punished and the aggressor was rewarded."

Mr. Sharif, who chaired a meeting of the International Parliamentarians against the Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina in Brussels in April 28, expressed the Muslim World's hope that the Clinton administration would act in compliance with the amendment through working unilaterally to lift the arms embargo imposed on the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina since "it (the arms embargo) was virtually conducive to more acts of genocide," emphasising that "the United States is the uni-polar power capable of putting an end to Serbian barbaric acts of murder, rape and genocide," the letter to Mr. Foley said.

The House of Representatives' approval of the amendment was opposed by Democrat Lee Hamilton, head of the Armed Services Committee, who argued against a unilateral action by the United States and wanted to tie it to a U.N. resolution.

In Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev used the opportunity of a meeting with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on Tuesday to blast U.S. legislators for the amendment aimed at opening way for arms supplies to Muslim forces in the former Yugoslav republic and warned that a unilateral withdrawal of a U.N. arms embargo in Bosnia could revive international confrontation.



REVERSED ROLES: A seemingly embarrassed Israeli soldier seated in the army truck, hides his face from photographers as he, together with a colleague, was stopped and disarmed by Palestinian police after driving to Jericho by mistake 16 June. The two were later released outside the self-rule area (AFP photo)

Lawyers plan strike to protest colleagues' detention

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egyptian attorneys' activist professional association mapped plans Friday for a strike to demand freedom for detained colleagues. Members warned it could be the lawyers' most disruptive protest ever.

Directors of the lawyers' syndicate were to convene later to determine the date and breadth of the strike. The board is dominated by members of the outlawed but government-tolerated Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest Islamic political pressure group.

"We have the support of all lawyers," said Brotherhood member Tarek Abdul-Kader, a member of the syndicate's committee on liberties. He said delegates

from syndicate branches across Egypt were to participate in Friday's meeting.

Previous strikes over disputes between President Hosni Mubarak's government and lawyers normally lasted one day. "This we plan it for several days," Mr. Abdul Kader said.

Thirty-three lawyers were arrested May 17 after a demonstration to protest the death in police custody of a lawyer, Abdul Harith Madani. Five more were arrested Tuesday for distributing leaflets urging lawyers to intensify their protest of Madani's death.

The lawyers and human rights groups claim Madani may have died under torture, but the government insists he was a "terrorist lawyer" who succumbed to an asthma

attack a day after his arrest. On Thursday, a Cairo appeals court ordered released 10 lawyers and four bystanders arrested at the May 17 disturbance. Most leaders of the protest movement are among 19 ordered to remain behind bars.

The president of the lawyers' syndicate, who is not a Muslim fundamentalist, said he would support a strike not as a protest of the jailing of his colleagues but as a show of support for them. "We have to have a legal cause to strike, and according to our profession we are not allowed to obstruct a judicial order," said syndicate head Ahmed Al Khawaga.

Abdullah Khalil, a lawyer and human rights activist, noted that Madani, the dead lawyer, belonged to extremist

Islamic organisations. "But the government's action against lawyers protesting his death, and his refusal to free them, has angered attorneys of all political affiliations, Mr. Khalil said.

He said that eight lawyers among the 24 remaining in custody are either leftists or not aligned with any political movement.

The lawyers' syndicate has 127,000 members. Many work for the government and public-sector companies, which cast some doubt on whether the proposed strike will succeed in shutting down Egypt's judicial system.

"Whenever we stage a strike," Mr. Khalil said, "the government lawyers — not a small number — are the first to break it."

Arab women win fellowships on merits

WASHINGTON — Two Arab women journalists were among the nine journalists awarded the 1994 Alfred Friendly Press Fellowships (AFFP) worldwide this year. The nine were selected, on a merit basis, from among 160 applicants representing 53 countries.

The Arab awardees are Omayma Abdul Latif, an Egyptian reporter with the English language weekly Al Ahrar, and Sa'eda Al Kilani, who writes for the Jordan Press Foundation and many regional English language publications, including the Jordan Times.

The Alfred Friendly fellowships provide journalists a six-month stay in the United States, each year from June to December, including a ten-day orientation seminar, a five-month working assignment with a newspaper or a magazine, and a final seminar where the fellows regroup to share experiences with one another.

The fellows will work as staff reporters on select hot publications. Omayma Abdul Latif will be working with The Detroit News in Detroit, Michigan, and Sa'eda Al Kilani with the Charlotte Observer in Charlotte, North Carolina. Following initial training, each will accompany staff reporters on their beats, and then will have rotating assignments among different news desks (such as "City," "Foreign," and "Features") to gain a variety of experience. Ultimately, Ms. Abdul Latif and Ms. Kilani will be provided assignments that best suit their interests and level of expertise.

The programme, famous throughout the world, was established ten years ago by Alfred Friendly, a former managing editor of the

Washington Post who won the Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on foreign affairs. Friendly believed that a strong, free press is essential to the healthy functioning of democracy, and felt that a full-time, on-the-job experience would be the best way to convey to a foreign journalist the standards and ideals of the American press.

Investigative reporting

Reflecting the new democratic thinking that has emerged around the world, foreign media interest in U.S.-style investigative reporting is reaching a peak, according to representatives of the international press touring the United States.

On June 3, 22 journalists from 21 countries began a month-long trip to the U.S., sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency and organised along the theme of "Investigative Reporting in the U.S." The visiting group will travel to various U.S. cities, visit newspapers, new magazines, television and radio stations, and work side by side with American reporters to practice the role of the press as watchdog — i.e. the discovery and exposure of wrongdoing by a person, agency or institution.

Investigative reporting is not new. The investigative reporter follows the same, painstaking search for facts as any in-depth newspaper or television journalist. In nations with a free press, all reporters are "investigators" trained to ask questions, uncover information and write the most complete story possible.

Some reporters, however, concentrate solely on investigations of crime. They deal with reporter-adversary relationships that usually are not

found in other assignments, and specialise in uncovering well-guarded information from often hostile sources.

One team of U.S. investigative reporters, Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward of the Washington Post, captured the world spotlight when they reported the 1972 burglary of the Democratic party's campaign headquarters in the Watergate office complex, an act which led to further revelations about the Nixon administration and, ultimately, to the president's resignation.

Now, twenty years later, international visitors from Nepal, Bangladesh, Jordan, and Kuwait can witness first-hand freedom of the press, U.S. style. They are being joined by reporters from Turkey, Gambia, Papua New Guinea, Bulgaria, Georgia, Latvia, Slovenia, Russia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Japan, the Philippines, Palau, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago.

In an interview with USIA at the start of the tour, Sinclair Francis Solomon of Papua New Guinea, president of the National Press Club and executive editor of "The National," agreed that the U.S. has been "a leader in investigative journalism dating back to Watergate days."

Khondker Monirul Alam, a diplomatic correspondent and city editor of "The Daily Khabar" in Bangladesh also reported a high interest in investigative journalism in his country. "Our election in 1991 was a free and fair election. Now we have a democratic (form of) government. All restrictions are gone so we can write what we like," he said.

Nezih Tavlas, deputy foreign news editor of Turkey's

"Daily Sabah," also declared that he can "write whatever I wish." At the same time, he pointed out that some journalists do receive death threats when they publish controversial articles. One of his motivations in participating in the trip, Tavlas said, was in order to establish a foundation for young journalists in honour of Ugur Mumcu, Turkey's most famous investigative journalist, who was killed by a car bomb last year.

For Nermeen Murad of Jordan, a political reporter of the "Jordan Times," the U.S. is not new, as she visited Washington as a correspondent during the early days of the Arab-Israeli peace talks. She observed that "in Washington, most of the investigative reporting is concentrated on actions of the government" to the detriment of other important issues. Her primary goal: to see whether U.S. patterns of investigative reporting are applicable in Jordan. However, she has her doubts. "I think we are probably not ready for so much detail in reporting on corruption," she admitted. Her secondary goal therefore is "to learn techniques that will enable me and my colleagues to unveil small corruptions such as crime and the abuse of children."

Some of the visiting journalists have already been exposed to dangerous reporting, such as Sameer Yasin Mohammad Saleh, a journalist for "Al-Watan" in Kuwait, who covered the Gulf war from the Kuwait-Iraq border. He said that a knowledge of investigative reporting would help him with upcoming assignments in his new position as head of the news section — United States Information Agency.

'Afghan prisoners tortured to death in jails'

KABUL (AFP) — Several Afghan prisoners have been tortured to death, and many have been maimed, in jails set up by rival factions in the Afghan civil war, freed prisoners here said.

In Kabul alone, at least two prisons have been established by the party of embattled Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, and 200 people are known to be detained there, they said Thursday.

One hundred and five people are reported to be in Sedatari jail while 95 in the so-called Jafri jail. Twelve of the inmates are women, they said.

Four prisoners recently released accused the Sedatari jail director of himself subjecting male inmates to torture and forcing women detainees to marry prison guards.

"Once there were 28 women. But most were released after we accepted the condition to marry," a woman prisoner who wedded a guard said.

While many of the men had been caught in the fighting, the women had been

jailed on accusations ranging from prostitution to abetting the former Soviet-backed regime in Kabul or helping Rabbani's enemy, Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Seven Shiite Muslim children, aged between seven and 12, are also among the prisoners. They were arrested last year by the Kabul garrison's chief and an ex-communist general, Baba Jan, for allegedly poisoning fruit in Kabul.

"They took me from the bazaar and kept me in Sedatari for eight months," said a 10-year-old boy, Ali Akbar, who was freed after the pro-Iranian Shiite Hezb-i-Wahdat released a soldier of former defence minister Ahmad Shah Masoud's Shooraa-Nazari militia. Masoud is Rabbani's main battlefield commander.

"Several prisoners in the Mujahadeen jails have died of torture," another prisoner who was released recently told AFP. The freed prisoner, who did not want to be named, said he knew an inmate, Saeed Mukhtar, who died after a merciless 10-hour

beating. Mukhtar was among a group of 30 Afghans from Shakar Dara, 25 kilometres north of Kabul, arrested last year on alleged charges of looting in the Pule Kheshti area in central Kabul.

Three other members of the group, Abdul Basser, Shad Muhammad and Ghul Muhammad, were left maimed from torture, the prisoner said.

The group was released after eight months in detention, when Shakar Dara's commander Anwar Dangar, who is allied to Rabbani's Jamiat-i-Islami party intervened.

There were at least three Pakistanis among the prisoners in Sedatari, all of whom have gone insane, another said.

Two of them, Fazal Mohammad, 30, and Haji Khalil, also 30, were jailed on charges of illegally entering Afghanistan in search of jobs.

They were seen roaming in the jail without any clothes, he said.

The jail wardens demand heavy bribes before releasing businessmen.

A trader was still in Sedatari because he refused to pay \$40,000 in kickbacks, while Abdul Razak, another businessman, secured his release after paying some \$15,000 and Nazir Kandahari was freed for \$16,000, he said.

Besides Sedatari and Jafri jails in Kabul, some 1,200 people — mostly Uzbek militia soldiers arrested after a failed coup against Rabbani in January — were in Safid Sher jail in Masoud's stronghold of Panjshir valley, officials here say.

Sources said the captives had been put to work clearing roads, digging trenches or carrying ammunition for Masoud's soldiers.

In the past two years, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) teams have twice visited the jails in Kabul.

But one of the released prisoners said this was "far from enough for those languishing inside."

"What we urgently need are regular visits and an accurate register of all the prisoners inside the cells and in the basements," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:30 World Cup: US vs Switzerland
20:20 Daily Summary of football matches
20:50 Fresh Prince of Bel Air
21:30 Varieties
21:30 The Campbells
22:00 News in English
22:20 Reasonable Doubt

PRAYER TIMES
03:50 Fajr
05:25 Sunrise
12:37 Dhuhr
16:17 Asr
19:08 Maghrib
21:23 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swildan, Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 637285
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church, Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church, Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 623541

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

HOSPITALS
AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 81381/332, Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 64441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 64336/2
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsiyan 664171/4
Shamsiyan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Muhsin Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Abi, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajira 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
Zarga Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital
Rm Sina Hospital (09)900560
Al-Hilal Modera Hospital (09)90990
IBRD: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Rm Al-Nefes Hospital (02)247100
AQARA
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:30 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
06:45 New Delhi (RJ)
08:15 Athens (RJ)
08:15 Dhahran (RJ)
08:15 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
08:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
12:30 New York (RJ)
16:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:00 Doha (RJ)
17:00 Cairo (RJ)
19:00 Jeddah (RJ)
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
20:30 Madrid (RJ)
21 Jeddah (RJ)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

A NIGHT DUTY
Dr. Abdul Hadi Taim 620115
Dr. Yousef Nasser 751144
Dr. Yousef Abdoh 694919
Dr. Jamal Ja'abeh 796460
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 657025
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yadoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsiyan pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IBRD:
Dr. Mohammad Hussein 279773
Al-Qasr pharmacy 66771
ZARQA:
Dr. Fath Agbarawi 96725
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OA)
13:00 Moscow (GP)
15:45 Rome, Larnaca (MS)
20:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)
23:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Beirut (RJ)
08:00 Athens (RJ)
09:00 Madrid (RJ)
10:30 Dubai (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:35 Paris (RJ)
12:55 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:45 London (RJ)
13:55 Cairo (RJ)
14:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00 Dubai, Larnaca (RJ)
21:30 Bangkok (RJ)
21:45 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
12:30 Bahrain (GP)
13:00 Vienna (OA)
21:15 Vienna (OA)
23:55 Cairo (MS)
00:25 Damascus, Paris (AF)
00:25 Amsterdam (KL)

HAZAR RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 650/400
Apricots 600/300
Banana (Mukammal) 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 150/100
Carrot 300/200
Chestnut 1300/800
Cauliflower 1200/700
Cucumber (large) 170/100
Cucumber (small) 160/100
Eggplant 160/80
Garlic 80/40
Grapes 700/300
Lemon 470/250
Marrow (large) 70/40
Marrow (small) 160/90
Mushrooms 130/60
Orange 180/80
Onion (dry) 420/250
Onion (wet) 420/250
Pepper (red) 350/250
Pepper (green) 350/250
Potato 370/250
Tomato 600/300
String beans 130/60
Watermelon 120/80



Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid Friday leads marchers on a walk to raise funds for the establishment of a club for diabetic children (Petra photo)

Jordanians march for 3 good causes

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Youth Minister Fawwaz Abu Ghanam Friday gave the start signal for 10-kilometre men's race and a five-kilometre women's race to mark the 10th anniversary of the Crown Prince Award Office.

Taking part in the race were some 1000 youths aged between 14 and 25.

At the end of the race, a special ceremony was held at Marriott Hotel, during which Mr. Abu Ghanam presented trophies and meritorious awards to winners and participants.

Also Friday Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid deputised for Her Majesty Queen Noor in leading a

four-kilometre walk to raise funds to establish a club for diabetic children.

The march was organised by the Diabetes Patients Welfare Society.

Queen Noor has donated JD 3,000 towards the establishment of the club.

The society was established in 1991 to care for diabetics and to promote awareness

about the disease.

A third march was organised Friday by Al Mustaqbal Club for the Physically Handicapped to celebrate Jordan's Independence Day. Prince Firas Ben Ra'd deputised for Her Royal Highness Princess Haya in participating in the march, which started from the Plaza Fitness Centre in Sweifeh and ended at the Orthodox Club in Abdoun.

EU, Arab entrepreneurs to explore prospects of joint regional projects

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Entrepreneurs from countries of the European Union (EU) and the Middle East, including Jordan, will convene a meeting in Cairo by the end of this year in order to explore prospects for joint European-Arab projects in the region, according to Renato Batti, head of the EU delegation in Amman.

Mr. Batti, who is leaving Jordan today at the end of his four-day visit, told the Jordan Times Friday that the meeting, to take place in December, has been called for by the EU and will be attended by representatives of the private sectors in European

countries and the Arab World.

He said joint European-Arab projects can only be implemented in the region within a climate of peace.

The European Union, he said, is deeply concerned with the developments in the peace process and seeks a just and durable peace in the region and therefore it is continuing its participation in the multilateral phase of the peace process, discussing issues of economic development.

Also, with a view towards stability in the area, the European Union is collecting studies related to the proposed Red-Dead-Sea canal project in order to conduct a

feasibility study of this vital scheme, Mr. Batti said.

But such a project, he added, can only be implemented within the context of peace, and the study of this project is at present in its initial stage.

The proposed Red-Dead-Sea canal was included in a general Jordan-Israel agreement reached earlier this month in talks held in Washington.

According to a senior delegate to the Arab-Israeli multilateral talks on water, Munther Haddadin, the cost of such a project could reach \$1.5 billion and would bring in an annual average of 1,300 million cubic metres of water from the Red Sea to the

Dead Sea.

Dr. Haddadin said the canal could be a water source for desalination plants and agriculture in the mostly arid southern regions, as well as electric power generation.

Referring to the EU's relations with Jordan, which date back to 1977, Batti said that the Kingdom's fourth protocol signed in 1992 with the European Union is currently being implemented.

He said more than JD 100 million is being spent to help support Jordan's imports programme, water, and educational projects, as well as infrastructure and small medium size industries in the country.

Electric power demands go up 8.4%

AMMAN (Petra) — Demand for electric power in Jordan last year registered an increase of 8.4 per cent, and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) is currently implementing a 1994-1998 development plan in order to face expected increases in demand until the year 2000, according to a JEA report released Friday.

In order to implement such power projects, the JEA is increasingly relying on Jordan's own energy resources such as the natural gas produced at Al Rishfeh fields and other renewable resources of energy.

At the same time, the au-

thority is improving the distribution networks around the country, the JEA report said.

In the past year, the JEA installed a 30-megawatt gas turbine unit at Rishfeh and has awarded tenders for the purchase and installation of three more gas turbines, each with a 30-megawatt capacity, in order to boost power generation.

The JEA also has finalised documents for the second phase expansion project at the Aqaba Thermal Power Station. This phase entails the installation of two power-generating units each with a 130-megawatt poten-

tial, added the report.

The report also said that the JEA was still seeking sufficient funds for the projects slated for completion by 1997.

On the pan-Arab front, the report said Jordan and Egypt are moving ahead with plans to link their national grid, and a joint committee is currently examining the bids, noting that the Egypt-Jordan scheme will be part of the larger Middle Eastern plan linking the two countries with the grids of Syria, Iraq and Turkey at a later stage.

Referring to electric power coverage in Jordan, the JEA report said that 33,000 new

subscribers were supplied with electricity last year compared with 26,000 in 1992, thus raising to 601,000 the total number of subscribers in various governorates.

In this context, the report said, 242 villages and population settlements in the rural districts were supplied with electricity during 1993 within the framework of a plan for the electrification of rural areas which ends in 1995.

Generating power through gas obtained from the Rishfeh fields, added the report, has saved the country a total of 560,000 tonnes of fuel last year.

Government open but cautious on private sector role in infrastructure

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government welcomes World Bank recommendations that the private sector be given a major role in building and maintaining infrastructure services, but it will not jump into any hasty steps, a senior official said Thursday.

Boulos Kefayeh, director of projects at the Ministry of Planning, also said the government had already accepted the principle of private sector participation in infrastructure and granted concessions to private operators in some sectors of the economy.

But, Dr. Kefayeh said, the government had to take into consideration economic, social and cultural features that were unique to Jordan before opening the door wider for the private sector.

"We want to take things slow and want to be ready to walk before we run," Dr. Kefayeh told a World Bank-organised debate on relating the findings of this year's World Development

Report to Jordan.

Although the official made no direct reference, the inference was clear: Jordan cannot simply introduce overnight reforms, including changes in pricing policies and distribution arrangements in sectors such as water and energy.

These two sectors, experts say, lag far behind in cost-effective pricing and collection systems and hence they run up losses. Increasing the tariffs and improving efficiency in these two sectors in addition to reforming the transport sector are among the suggestions made by the World Bank, which, in coordination with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), is monitoring the progress of Jordan's economic restructuring programme.

The World Development Report's focus this year is on infrastructure and the benefits of third world governments relinquishing their monopoly over sectors such as water, energy and telecommunications so that efficiency of state-run enterprises in these areas is

increased.

Equally important, increased investments in cost-effective infrastructure will help increase trade and contribute to economic growth, according to the World Bank.

Dr. Kefayeh said the importance that the economic planners of Jordan attach to the private sector was evident in the 1993-1997 development plan.

He pointed out that the infrastructure-oriented plan envisaged more than two-thirds of the investments proposed therein to come from the private sector.

In addition, he noted that a study was under way on privatising the national carrier, Royal Jordanian, and that the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) had given concessions on complementary communications services to the private sector. (The TCC gave the radio-paging concession to a private sector firm three years ago and is poised to grant a cellular phone services contract to another firm).

The government is plan-

ning to set up a wholly government-owned holding company to take over the gas and oil sector and two other firms with 49 per cent private sector participation in areas related to energy, Dr. Kefayeh said.

He declined to give details saying that the proposals were under study by the Cabinet.

In the energy sector, he said, part of electricity distribution was in the hands of private companies although the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), a semi-autonomous state enterprise, accounts for the bulk of power produced and consumed in the Kingdom.

About 90 per cent of the Kingdom's public transport system is operated by the private sector, Dr. Kefayeh said.

Steven McKennie, chief of the infrastructure division at the World Bank, acknowledged that Jordan had made significant strides in permitting the private sector to step into state monopolies. But, he said, the Kingdom could do much more.

Endorsement of municipalities draft law 'contains' conflict over legislation

By Natasha Bukhari

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After months of deliberations, the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament last week endorsed the controversial municipalities draft law in a joint session of senators and deputies aimed at "containing the conflict" concerning the draft legislation.

The session, attended by 110 deputies and senators was held after the judiciary committees of both Houses agreed on the final draft of the law which, for many months, was passed back and forth between the committees because of conflicts over some articles of the draft legislation.

The draft law, as amended and approved by the House, stipulates that all municipal councils, including the Greater Amman Municipal Council, will be dissolved and the councils replaced by government-appointed committees one month after the draft legislation is signed into law and pronounced in the official gazette.

In addition, the draft legislation stipulates that one-day municipal elections will be held in June 1995.

According to the present law, municipal councils should be elected, and the draft law, not yet effective, cannot be implemented.

But the government selectively chose to implement the article of dissolution of municipal councils last month when it dissolved eight councils and replaced them with appointed committees well before the endorsement of the draft legislation, a measure which raised the disapproval of many Islamic Action Front (IAF) lawmakers who accused the government of undermining Islamists' authority in the country.

Parliamentary sources told the Jordan Times that endorsing the draft law as amended by lawmakers was a measure taken by the Upper House to appease IAF deputies that were angered by the government's "illegal" act of dissolving eight municipal councils in the Kingdom last month.

IAF deputies saw this move as one directed against Islamists in the country as most members and heads of the councils dissolved were Islamists.

The government then replaced the elected councils

with committees headed by governors.

The Senate had formerly objected to deputies' amendments, arguing that members of the municipality of Amman should be appointed and not elected.

Lawmakers, however, took a firm stand on the amendment demanding that all municipal councils, including the capital's, be elected.

Legislators finally reached a compromise whereby they agreed that half of the council of Amman's municipality would be elected, while the other half and the mayor would be appointed.

Parliamentary sources maintained that approving the draft law as amended by deputies was a "necessary" step for the government as it cannot afford to raise more opposition at this "critical stage" when many Islamist lawmakers have already voiced disapproval of the government's new policy concerning peace talks with Israel.

According to IAF Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber, IAF deputies are still not "happy" with the draft law as it was approved.

He said a "deal" between the Lower and Up-

per Houses' judiciary committees was made whereby the Lower House agreed to give the Minister of Municipal Affairs the right to postpone elections in some municipalities for as long as six months in return for the senators' approval of specifying the qualifications of council heads.

The draft law stipulates that all municipal heads should be literate, while Amman's mayor should at least have a Tawjihi degree — an article formerly disagreed upon by the senate. Moreover, Mr. Jaber criticised the senate's insistence on appointing half of Amman council, saying that it was contradictory to the country's democratic path.

"By restricting complete and free elections, the government is securing a monopoly over the Greater Amman Municipal Council," he said.

Following the issuance of a Royal Decree on Monday, the two-month extraordinary session was adjourned Thursday after the Lower House completed its work on legislative issues on the session's agenda, which was restricted to the topics set by the Royal Decree that summoned it.

NEWS IN BRIEF

78,901 students to sit for Tawjihi

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 78,901 students from the various streams of study today will fill the 1,050 examination halls throughout the Kingdom to take (Tawjihi) the first of their General Secondary Certificate Examinations which will end on June 29. The figure includes 41,488 students in the literary stream, 22,896 in the scientific stream, 5,884 in the commercial stream, 4,239 in the vocational training stream, 2,610 in the agricultural stream, 1,463 in the nursing stream and 231 in the hotel training stream, according to Director of the Examinations and Educational Evaluation Department Sayel Obeidat. Mr. Obeidat said that more than 4,500 teachers will start correcting the students' examinations on June 30.

Minister briefed on UNRWA work

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State Mohammad Thweib Thursday received Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Dennis Brown, who briefed him on UNRWA health, educational and welfare services to the Palestinian refugees in Jordan. Mr. Thweib also listened to a briefing about the projects being carried out by UNRWA in the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, and future projects. The minister expressed the government's genuine desire to enhance cooperation and coordination with UNRWA through the Palestinian Affairs Department. Mr. Thweib praised UNRWA's humanitarian role in alleviating the suffering of refugees.

Visiting U.S. scholars find enthusiasm for dialogue

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of 13 American scholars arrived in Amman three weeks ago to gather information and gain a better understanding of Islamic culture and Jordanian society and its members are finding there is an eagerness among Jordanians for dialogue which they say is the guiding characteristic of Islam.

Although none of the members are specialists in the teaching of Islam and they do not intend to teach Islamic culture as a topic in itself, they say they hope to be able to incorporate what they learn here into global topics through their teaching in the U.S.

The members of the group, which will return June 22 to the U.S., come from various universities throughout the U.S. and have different areas of specialisation including philosophy, medicine, public health, geography, drama

and art history.

The academic exchange programme is sponsored by the United States Information Agency (USIA) and was made possible through cooperation between the Al Urdun Al-Jadid Research Centre in Amman and a Washington and Boston-based organisation, the Education Development Centre, established in the late 1940's.

The group has travelled around the country from Aqaba to Irbid and visited Parliament, universities and hospitals as well as members of some Jordanian political parties and members of the Muslim Brotherhood movement.

"There is a great deal of interest in dialogue," according to Lois Lavetta Nixon, professor at the University of South Florida College of Medicine, in Tampa.

Dr. Nixon said she found an eagerness among the people here for dialogue in terms of a discussion about Jordan. "This is the guiding charac-

teristic of Islam."

Jordan was chosen by the Education Development Centre as a source of study because it is exemplary of Islamic culture and because of the country's effort to be part of the world at large, according to Dr. Nixon.

The group mainly conducts research on how Islam functions in society through discussions with different Jordanian personalities.

One of the main objectives is to plant the seed of dialogue and fertilise it with continuous communications, which is the reason why the programme hopes to encourage interaction between the American and Jordanian professors.

"From that you can learn and exchange experiences" which would result in "better communication and understanding," Dr. Nixon said.

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the U.S. and therefore there is an increasing awareness of Islam in America. Individually, the members of the group say

they may write some pieces on their findings, and some say they may give lectures to their respective communities.

Fuad K. Suleiman, the organiser of the group, said the intention is to bring down the barriers of the stereotyped image of Islam in America. This, said Dr. Suleiman, can be done through the dissemination of knowledge gathered here and the inclusion of Islam in university lectures.

According to Beth Furlong, whose speciality is public health nursing and health policy at the School of Nursing at Creighton University in Nebraska, "visiting the Islamic hospital helped crystallise Islam for me."

Dr. Furlong, who had personal meetings with the nursing faculty and said she established good professional contacts, noted that the Islamic lifestyle prevents many health problems from occurring similar to the health problems that appear in the Western World.

"Public health is not just

about illness... but about total life," she added.

Dr. Furlong said she is interested in the whole permutation of a health culture by religion and how it affects the health status.

The group has not had much time to engage in scholarly work because of its full schedule, according to Burton G. Hurdle, Jr., professor of philosophy at the Department of History and International Studies at Virginia State University, but they will follow up on their research and reading back home.

The scholars said however, that the various disciplines they teach are represented in Islamic society.

Dr. Nixon, who specialises in ethics and humanities noted that Islamic culture informs and influences the behaviour of people.

Although the two countries may approach ethical matters differently for example, she said, matters such as abortion and euthanasia, both difficult matters to deal with here and

in the West, are discussed in the medical arena.

Dr. Nixon said the approach in the two countries is different. Over the last few years the trend in the U.S. has been a move to the humanities in the medical profession. "In the U.S. we need people with a liberal arts background because that is essential to good caring," she said.

Here in Jordan the medical profession is more scientifically based, more systematic, whereas the humanities deals with more intangible matters, according to Dr. Nixon.

The group is offering a two to three-year masters or doctorate degree scholarship in special education and theatre.

Members are currently meeting with students who will apply to the institutions directly or through the professors.

The scholarship comes as part of a yearly programme whereby up to four Jordanians are chosen to study in the U.S.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Opera evening at the Orthodox Club on Sunday at 8:00 p.m.

Exhibition by Iraqi artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery in Mecca Street.

An art exhibition "The Form and Colour in the Arab Art Exhibition," by 16 artists from Jordan and Iraq at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

Exhibition by artist Mohammad Fradi at the Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Uthaina (Tel. 826932).

Child Needs Expo at the International Motor Exhibition, Airport Highway (Tel. 653836).

Exhibition of photographs by artist Mohammad Al Baddawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Exhibition by plastic artist Shawkat Al Alousi at Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 672872).

British Graduate Seeks Research Work

Hard-working female British graduate from a U.K. university is looking for paid research or other work in Amman from end of June 1994 for six months. Bilingual English/Arabic, good computer skills (Microsoft Windows 3.1, AppleMac, IBM Wordperfect). Also editing and proofreading experience, and photographic skills.

Please reply to c/o Mark Le Goy, British Embassy, P.O.Box 87 (Tel.823100)

Jordan Times

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Different roots, one fate

THE SPEECH of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to the third general conference of the Arab Youth Forum Wednesday about Hashemism and Jordanianism was a timely reminder that we in Jordan, as indeed elsewhere in the Arab World, may have gone astray in the pursuit of identity. That there is an identity crisis in practically all the Arab countries, following the weakening of Arab nationalism, is a foregone conclusion. All the efforts, past and recent, to forge a united Arab Nation and identity have been frustrated by strong forces from within and without.

Here at home, His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly said that all Jordanians are equal irrespective of their roots and backgrounds. This admonition against perpetuating worn-out traditional divisions in our midst have yet to be translated into actions at all necessary levels. There are occasions in which we hear of discrimination not only on the basis of origin but also on geographical as well as religious, tribal or other bases. This is not right since Jordanians can pride themselves of being the macrocosm of the aspired-for Arab Nation since they hail from all corners of the Arab World, as the Regent rightly reminded us.

The biggest challenge posed by King Hussein's call has yet to be taken to heart by the people at large. This suggests that more needs to be done to put into effect the leadership's insistence that we are all Jordanians with equal rights and obligations. Perhaps the first step in this regard is to introduce legislation that makes any kind of discrimination a criminal offence. Other legislation, especially regarding public posts, should make discrimination difficult to attain. Affirmative policies need also to be endorsed for this purpose. Yet there is a limit to what the government can do in that direction. Opinion makers and political leaders should share the responsibility for combatting people's negative attitudes towards fellow citizens. We have seen how bigotry and discrimination worked to destroy communities and states, especially in Africa, where tribal bonds are stronger than national bonds. Furthermore, we should not brush aside the complaints of groups or individuals in the name of national unity. National unity, as the lesson from Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union teach us every day, cannot be attained by slogans and wishful thinking. It can only be achieved through open dialogue and debate that would lead to deep understanding of the problems associated with discrimination that eventually lead to disunity.

As a young and modern state heading towards the 21st century, it is high time that we all promote a contemporary conception of citizenship based on the rule of law and the higher interest of the nation.

King Hussein and Prince Hassan have repeatedly stressed that Jordan is not only for all Jordanians but for all the Arabs as well, that the Hashemites are not only leaders but the embodiment of the spirit of the nation and that Jordan is, therefore, the highest expression and living example of the Arab quest for unity. What we Jordanians need to do is put our leadership's vision into action for the sake of the country, the nation and future generations.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AS WAS expected, the prices of many goods have shot up with the application of the sales tax at the start of June, said Mohammad Daoud, a writer in the Al Dustour daily. The Ministry of Supply has so far refrained from interfering to put an end to the greed of merchants who have raised the prices of imported and locally produced items, including vegetables and fruit, said the writer. It is a known fact that the government has a list of commodities whose prices would be raised by seven per cent under the Sales Tax Law but few people know the items of this list and the merchants are exploiting the situation with no authority to stop their manipulations and save the consumers from this new onslaught, added the writer. He said that there is urgent need for the government to ensure that prices are fixed and the consumers from further exploitation. The writer said that unless the concerned authorities find a way to control the situation, not only consumers interests would be harmed but the new law would be the object of public discontent on a national scale.

Jordanian Perspective

Jordan calls on U.S. to address Kingdom's rights

By Musa Keilani

THIS week's meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House is the most crucial of all the encounters the King ever had with an American chief executive. No doubt, the Arab-Israeli conflict was always the central theme for the King's discussions with American presidents, but his meeting this time around with President Clinton comes after Israel, the U.S. protee in the Middle East, has for the first time agreed to negotiate with the Kingdom the thorny issues of border demarcation and the Kingdom's water rights, paving the way for eventual discussions on economic cooperation and environmental issues.

Over the years since Israel was created in 1948 and the Jewish state seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967 Middle East war, Jordan has lived in the shadow of the Palestinian problem. Even more, every decision the Kingdom made had to take into consideration the Palestinian dimension. Now that the Palestinians are on their way, hopefully, to eventual peace with Israel, it is time for Jordan also to move forward lest it be left behind. This reality has no reflection on Jordan's commitment to helping the Palestinian people or to a peace settlement that embraces all dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Syrian and Lebanese angles.

But the Kingdom is perhaps the most aware among all the Arab parties in the negotiations with Israel that the price of peace is indeed much higher than the price of war; the people in the street see the tangible results of peace in terms of their daily lives. And hence the importance of King Hussein's meeting with President Clinton.

It is no secret that the King would be raising Jordanian requests for financial assistance from the U.S. as well as American help to address the Kingdom's foreign debts. The bottom line is: the bulk of Jordan's economic problems is a direct result of the state of war that prevailed in the region for decades and Amman's unwavering political positions in regard to problems created by Israel which had unlimited political, military, economic and moral support from the United States. It is only fair that the party which, wittingly or unwittingly, contributed to maintaining tension in the region — regardless that it was unable to control its own protee — should also help maintain peace.

The people of Jordan have been put through untold problems as direct and indirect results of Israeli actions. They have always borne the brunt of the conflict, whether in terms of hosting Palestinian refugees displaced by Israeli acts of aggression or force expulsion, or in terms of sacrificing their own sons for having always upheld the

basic principles of people's rights and the Kingdom's commitment not to be provoked at any point and to a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

Having said that, however, there are other key factors that should come into play. American argument that it was in Jordan's interest as much as anyone else's to enter the peace process and move towards a settlement with Israel are true in light of the aspired-for solution to the conflict, but they have to be seen against the background that it was not Jordan which was refusing to make peace based on justice, fairness and the complete rights of all parties involved, foremost of all the Palestinians. It was Israel who refused to accept Arab rights as the basis for a settlement, thus raising the stakes in the conflict with support from its guardian across the Atlantic. Therefore to argue, as some American congressmen do, that Jordan should be contented with a peace-for-the-sake-of-peace agreement do not hold much water.

If anything, the agreements that Jordan reached with Israel in Washington two weeks ago were made under the U.S. umbrella. Indeed, the two parties have to negotiate and reach acceptable formulas for border demarcation and water sharing; the basic Israeli accord to negotiate is clearly guaranteed by Washington. But the "dramatic" gestures that the Americans have been seeking will not be forthcoming from Jordan, which knows only too well that dramatics would not serve the interest of securing Israeli acceptance of Arab rights, whether today tomorrow or any time later. It would be a grave mistake on the part of the Americans to insist on such gestures from Jordan and hinge them with a positive response to the Kingdom's quest to address its economic problems.

It was also no fault of Jordan that the Kingdom had to suffer immense losses from the American determination to punish Iraq. The four-year-old siege of Aqaba was not of Jordanian making. It stemmed from Washington's dedicated pursuit to deny Iraq the means to sustain itself as a country and people. At the same time, it cannot be overlooked either that the U.S. sought to use the enforcement of the sanctions against Iraq to blockade Jordan's only port, denying the Kingdom vital supplies to meet its own market needs and raising the cost of imports and exports.

Hopefully, the last few details related to replacing the off-shore inspections of Jordan-bound cargo with a land-based verification regime will be sorted out during the King's talks in Washington. But an arrangement in itself is not enough. Jordan has to be compensated for the losses it suffered since American warships took up positions in the

Red Sea in August 1990, intercepting Aqaba-bound vessels and turning them away whenever it suited their whims and fancies.

In the regional context, it was very telling of Washington to reveal that the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations have also entered a "more substantive phase." The revelation vindicates what many in the region and outside describe — both positively and negatively — as Jordan's haste to reach an agreement with Israel to negotiate the basic points of conflict. Whether we like it or not, the fact remains that Arab coordination has remained below an acceptable level, and Jordan had no choice but to go forward to secure for itself an advanced position in the negotiations with Israel after having waited long for its Arab partners to catch up in their track of negotiations with Israel. By the same token, Jordan did not have to wait so far if it made compromises over stands and demands based on the fundamental principle that Arab rights are the objective of the negotiations.

No doubt the Israeli acceptance to base the negotiations on the sovereign rights of Jordan, whether in territory or in waters, stemmed from a realisation that the Jewish state could not have had its way with the Kingdom to dilute its stands. Apparently, the Israelis realised the time had come to face realities in their right perspectives — which meant that there could never be a Jordanian climbdown from Amman's demand for respect and recognition of its basic rights, regardless of the pace of the peace process elsewhere. The key and perhaps more important question was: Could the Israelis insist on their demands and let the political considerations take their own course to press Jordan into accepting the Israeli stand for fear of being left behind? Obviously, the Israelis realised the issue was too close to call and decided against running a risk with Jordan. Indeed it was the most telling sign yet of the fact that Jordan cannot be marginalised regardless of the shape of the peace process.

Hopefully, the Americans, equally aware of the centrality of the role that Jordan has to play in any equitable peace in the Middle East, will also realise that the issue is too close to call while dealing with Jordan's legitimate quest for financial assistance to help it cope with the result of a problem which was not of its making but the result of the actions of a staunch American ally in the Middle East; and, as such, there is a moral obligation on the part of Washington to set things right. Jordan is not extending a beggar's bowl in Washington, it is demanding what is its right.

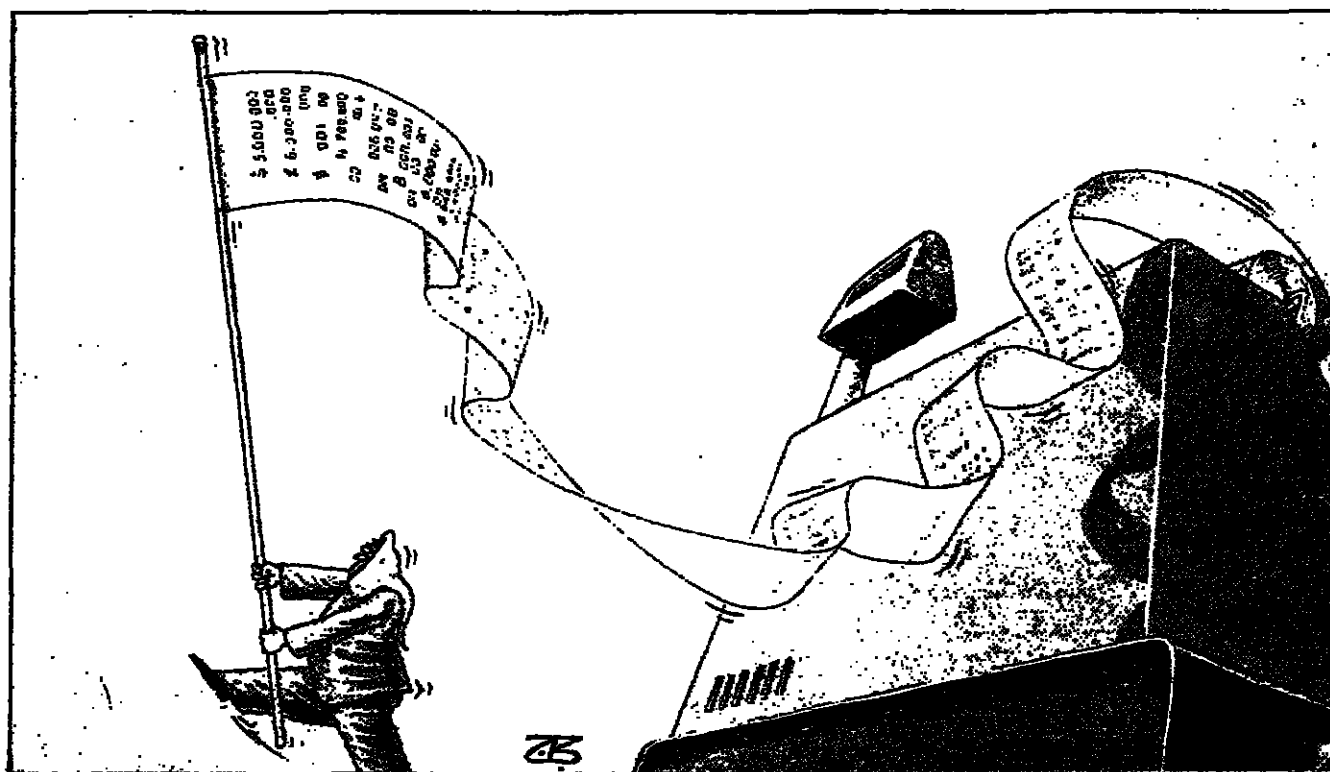
by Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL Arabic daily newspapers last week gave prominence to the peace process, the situation in Yemen and a host of domestic issues.

A columnist in Al Dustour said that the self-rule accord between Palestinians and the Israelis will be difficult to implement given the present Israeli procrastinations and ill will. Fakhri Saleh said that in the first place, Israel is interpreting the accord in a manner that would only serve its own interests and, secondly, the Israeli government is at loggerheads with the opposition over the self-rule. The writer urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to form a pressure group to lobby the Europeans and the Americans to pressuring the Israelis to commit themselves to implementing the accord as soon as possible.

The same views were echoed by another columnist in Al Dustour, Mohammad Kawash, who said that the Israelis are not sincere about the self-rule and are trying to impede all steps towards enabling the national Palestine authority in order to control matters in the Jericho and Gaza regions. The writer said that the Israelis are continually harassing the Palestinians and the security force through the settlers' provocations which are bound to trigger hostilities.

Arafat Hijazi, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the Palestinian negotiators should not be delighted at their success in releasing Palestinian detainees because these youths are being isolated in areas away from their relatives in their hometowns and therefore they live as if



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Israel steering self-rule accord to serve its purposes

they have been shifted into a new prison camp. The writer said that the Israelis have made it a condition that those released from detention should remain under surveillance in the autonomy regions and cannot be allowed to rejoin their families until further notice. He said that this practice is a continuation of Palestinian human rights abuses by the Israeli authorities.

Ahmad Al Misleh, a writer in Al Ra'i, criticised intellectuals who have been organising meetings with Israeli writers and other

groups, saying that peace has not been reached and meetings of this kind are a recognition of Israel's right to pursue its aggressive policies against the Palestinians. The writer said that Arab groups which plan such meetings should be prevented from talking with the Israelis until Israel has given back to the Palestinians their full rights.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, criticised a statement by U.S. State Department officials that called for Palestinian refugees to be settled in Arab

states hosting them. According to U.N. Security Council resolutions, the Palestinian refugees have the right to compensation or repatriation and the world community is morally committed to serve them justice, said the writer. The Palestine question and the refugees problem constitute a political and humanitarian issue that requires just and comprehensive solutions, said the writer.

Another Al Ra'i columnist criticised Western countries for lifting the arms embargo against Israel in the wake of the

Palestinian-Israeli Oslo accord. Youssef Mahmoud said while the Americans have never stopped providing the Israelis with the most sophisticated types of weapons and war planes, the British have just announced that they are lifting the ban on arms sales to Israel but not the Arabs. The Europeans have a double standard policy when it comes to dealing with the Middle East question and they are in this case rewarding the aggressors, for their continued occupation of Arab lands, said the writer.

Al Ra'i daily expressed optimism that the Yemeni leaders will now comply with U.N. Security Council Resolution 924 and stop fighting. Thanks to Lakhdar Al Ibrahim's efforts as a U.N. envoy to Yemen, the two sides seem to be convinced that a ceasefire should be arranged to allow for the peace makers to arrange a dialogue, said the paper. Having visited Amman and other Arab capitals to gather support for his mission, the U.N. envoy seems to be inclined to involve the Arab states in what we can call an Arabised international formula to bring back peace to the embattled nation, added the paper.

Al Ibrahim won praise from Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, who paid tribute to the envoy for his earlier successful missions as a career diplomat who was instrumental in settling many regional issues. Though we do not expect speedy success for Al Ibrahim in the Yemeni question due to the external influences, exercised on both Sanaa and Aden. We feel optimistic that the man, who had played key roles in other difficult missions, would clinch a deal that would halt the fighting and open the way for peace, stressed the writer.

A columnist in Al Ra'i advocated the idea of creating a teachers' union in Jordan, stressing that the teachers constitute a very powerful force that would and should contribute to the enhancement of the country's democracy. Samir Habashneh, who is also a member of the Lower House of Parliament said that Parliament should have supported the idea of a teachers' union and backed the teachers drive

Nicholas Doughty
Reuters

ISTANBUL — NATO and Russia, locked in a battle to determine the future shape of security in Europe, seem further apart than ever in their different visions of how to solve the problems of the post-cold war world. The 16-nation alliance had high hopes for a meeting of foreign ministers in Istanbul, which ended on Friday, and included talks with former Soviet bloc states, including Russia.

Instead of smoothing the path to more cooperative relations, the meeting brutally highlighted the disagreements between NATO and Russia on issues ranging from arms control to expanding membership of the alliance to Eastern Europe.

The stakes are enormous. Any chance of restoring

order to a continent torn by the conflicts in former Yugoslavia and the Caucasus depends on NATO and Russia working together.

Alliance officials are acutely aware that hardliners in Moscow, already suspicious of the West and resentful after the collapse of the Soviet empire, will have a stronger position unless NATO manages to lock Russia into cooperation soon.

NATO Deputy Secretary-General Sergio Balanzino, clearly uneasy at the row, said Russia should not be isolated or treated as hostile despite what he called bad humour and nervousness.

"It was a pretty bloody affair," said one senior NATO diplomat. "It was an absolutely Soviet exercise, a disastrous performance by the Russians, and it

does not augur well."

There seems to be little room for manoeuvre.

NATO offered Russia closer ties on Thursday in response to Moscow's complaints that it had been ignored by the West on key issues such as allies air strike in Bosnia and arms control.

However, the alliance set out clear conditions for such ties, saying that Russia should first sign its partnership for peace scheme on closer military links and that any broader ties would not be enshrined in a treaty or give Moscow a veto.

This represented a rejection of demands from Russia for a normal special status with the alliance and German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev was "clearly not content."

NATO is acutely sensi-

tive to charges from Eastern Europe that it might allow Russia to block any eastward expansion — a move that Moscow says would be unacceptable.

Alliance officials say NATO can offer no more to the Russians. To rub salt into the wound, NATO ministers publicly reaffirmed that the alliance would take in Eastern European states at some point in the future.

Russia, too, is in a difficult position.

Two weeks ago, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev handed a list of demands to NATO but promised that Moscow would sign the partnership for peace without setting conditions.

In Istanbul, Mr. Kozyrev set no date for signing the deal and suggested Russia still wanted NATO to recognise Russia's size and

weight through a separate agreement.

NATO also rejected important aspects of Russia's overall view of how European security should develop.

Moscow, fearing that it will be shut out, wants NATO to play a reduced role and become subordinate to the conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Russia also wants changes to a landmark treaty on conventional weapons in Europe, which would allow it to station more tanks and other equipment in the troubled Caucasus region. NATO has said the 1990 treaty must stand unchanged.

Moscow argued hard on these issues during the drafting of a final statement for Friday's meeting.

In the end, furious NATO allies and Eastern

European states were forced to drop any reference in the statement to the future expansion of the alliance, at Russian insistence. Without Moscow's agreement, there would have been no final statement.

Alliance diplomats said it was still unclear whether Russia was taking a tough line simply to win a better deal on cooperation with NATO, or whether Moscow's attitude to the West was turning to outright hostility.

But they agreed there was little hope that Russia would now sign the partnership for peace before August — something NATO had expected. "This is going to be long and difficult," said another NATO diplomat. "We have to find some way to make Russia feel more secure but not at any price."

الجزيرة

S. Africa's new leaders order kids back to school

By Judith Matloff
Reuters

SOWETO, South Africa — For the best part of two decades, the African National Congress (ANC) urged South Africa's black youths to take to the streets to fight apartheid.

Now, settling into office after its triumph in April's historic first all-race elections, it is trying to get them back into the classrooms to build a new nation.

Nelson Mandela, the country's first black president, wants to rebuild his fractured nation with the help of millions of youths denied decent education for years by apartheid and boycotts against white minority rule.

But luring them in from the margins of rebellious society and delivering education equal to that enjoyed by whites to meet the expectations of the five-to-one black majority are ambitious goals for the fledgling democracy, educators say.

"I think we will see attitudes changing now with a new government and people going back to school," said Boy Mntsi, a primary school teacher in Soweto black township outside Johannesburg.

"But expectations are very high and nothing is going to change overnight. In some areas it could be very problematic."

His view was a common one voiced in the township. South Africa's largest and a cradle of the anti-apartheid struggle since June 16, 1976 when hundreds including schoolchildren were killed in an uprising against white rule.

For years the date was commemorated by township blacks with stay-aways, treating it as an unofficial holiday. This year pro-ANC education groups want to use the day to chart rebuilding a culture of learning.

"We need to go beyond the call just to commemorate the day (June 16) and get down to business to get our learning culture back," said Siphos Cele, acting general secretary of the National Education Cooperation Committee.

Since 1976, classes of mil-



RESCUING THE LOST GENERATION: ANC faces the challenge of convincing black youngsters to leave the battle fields for the school yards (AFP photo)

lions have been disrupted by anti-apartheid boycotts and strikes over issues from examination fees to teachers' meagre pay — many organised by the ANC which now leads a national unit government.

The crisis has been deepened by inadequate schooling for blacks under decades of apartheid policies which relegated them to a secondary status.

Many township schools

are in a sorry state, windows broken, roofs riddled with holes and toilets jammed. Vandalism, crime and absenteeism are rife. Furniture, books and light bulbs are scarce.

Less than 40 per cent of black pupils passed their final exams in 1992. The success rate was not much better last year.

Successive white minority governments spent up to 10 times more on white educa-

tion than on black students. The gap narrowed over the years to a ratio of four to one, but the new government says it has to be eradicated completely.

A recent study by independent education groups showed 230,000 additional teachers will be needed over the next eight years to meet the growing education needs.

The new government formed after the April 26-

29 elections says the system must be overhauled urgently.

It promises 10 years of free, compulsory education and five years of intensive reforms. These include merging 19 educational departments created during apartheid under a single ministry this year and disbanding them by 1995.

Other priorities are redefining curricula better to reflect the needs of the

black majority and building new classrooms.

"You have to tell us what you want," Jay Naidoo, the new minister without portfolio, urged educators at a forum just before the elections.

Township educators say they need a change of attitude in the community that will motivate and discipline students and bestow legitimacy on schooling.

"A lot depends on the

community and the parents. Sometimes we teachers get so frustrated," said Dimakatso Motsoari, a Soweto primary school teacher.

"The parents often don't push the children. We are the ones who always push them."

Her colleague Lucy Magata echoed: "Changes in attitudes must take place."

Mr. Mandela himself has indicated a commitment to

do just that, going so far as warning parents they would be thrown in jail if they failed to send their children to school.

"We are going to make a law once we have built enough schools for our children to be absorbed... Compelling parents to send their children to school," he said in a speech in March.

"Any parent not carrying out that decision we will lock up."

Anger and uncertainty in Aden as war closes in

By William Maclean
Reuters

ADEN — Beleaguered residents of the southern stronghold of Aden queue for water, tend their wounded and watch in fury as the war mauling their dilapidated city mires them further in decay and poverty.

Yemen's six-week-old civil war is testing the physical and emotional resilience of an impoverished population whose war-wounded children die daily in filthy hospitals and whose able-bodied struggle to share scant water supplies without violence.

"We are in hell, we are in hell," sighed a former government deputy minister, shaking his head with anger as shells slammed into shack homes two km from his apartment.

"We want the war stopped. Forget politics. Forget North and South. I am a human being. We are seeing our people destroyed, and for what? For what? Our people are living in a hell."

Hussein Abdul Rahman, a foreign ministry official, said: "We cannot accept that Aden will stay without electricity, water and with its harbour affected. Some people feel the people of the North should drink from the same bitter cup."

Southern officials say the conflict is between a prog-

ressive secular South and an Islamist northern tyranny trying to annex the South for its potential oil wealth and Aden's port.

Northern President Ali Abdullah Saleh has sworn to crush a southern break-away state announced by Aden on May 21. Some of his troops have advanced to within 15 km of the city and his gunners have most of it within artillery range.

By night residents on the slopes of Aden's Mount Shamsan see the streak of rockets and flicker of muzzle blasts to the north where northern troops engage heavily outnumbered southerners.

Scores and perhaps hundreds of civilian women and children have been dismembered by shells since northern gunners opened up on nearby villages, the city's northern districts, the harbour and the oil refinery.

Port activity is minimal and only warplanes use the much-bombed airport.

The facilities were pillars of a brilliant future of tourism and trade envisioned for Aden by southerners who agreed to unite with the more populous North in 1990 in an attempt to rescue the formerly Marxist South from cold war underdevelopment.

"When am I going to see that world outside?" said Mohammad, a hotel clerk, pointing at pictures of a



People stand next to broken and burning pipelines in the besieged port of Aden Friday after northern forces bombed and fired missiles at the city (AFP photo)

Caribbean holiday resort advertised on America's Cable News Network Television.

"We want to have the money to travel like foreigners do."

One Yemeni businessman managing a 21 million hotel construction project in Aden said: "We all liked

Ali Abdullah Saleh when he began the union because we thought he would help business. Well, we like to do business, of course, but we do not like to be invaded and we do not like war of any kind."

War damage is chipping away at essential services.

The shelling has damaged power lines to the main water pumps near front lines at Bir Nasser north of Aden, forcing the 400,000 inhabitants to rely on old mosque wells with water of varying quality. At least three southern officials have been killed trying to repair the power cables.

Foreign aid workers say that if water supplies are not increased soon competition for well water could lead to tension. By one account gunfire has already been used several times to settle arguments over ownership of wells.

Some residents have broken into the water pipes to obtain supplies trapped

in the immobilised system. When the pumps were temporarily revived this week, the breaches had lowered the pressure so much that only the lowest-lying houses were served.

Retrieval is insanitary at some wells where children use buckets soiled by street waste and possibly animal droppings. "That is the way cholera starts," one aid worker said.

He said foreign aid groups were trying to supply submersible pumps to provide sanitary retrieval, but there was a danger that pumping would hasten well depletion and the exhaustion of a mosque well would have a severe psychological impact.

"A mood of desperation is exactly what Saleh wants to achieve. It would facilitate civil disturbances that could allow his troops to enter," said one foreign resident. "The mood isn't desperate, but it swings all from depression to anger."

"I'm now meeting people volunteering to fight," said a Yemeni catering manager. "They used to be forced to fight.... Now they say they've got to play their part and do their little bit. The military are outnumbered, so I think it's more of a people's defence now."

Officials of the former Marxist Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), the main partner of a coalition ruling the breakaway state, say Aden Islamists sympathetic to the North are stirring trouble.

In Sheikh Othman suburb Islamists gunmen last week apparently tried to stage an uprising using rocket propelled grenades. They were swiftly crushed by troops.

But anxiety lingers. "My cousin (a police chief in a downtown area) keeps telling me 'everything's fine, everything's secure. The Islamists are nothing to worry about,'" said a businessman. "It almost seems too rosy."

Officers go for the money

By Gilles Campion
Agence France Presse

BEIJING — Five years ago, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) helped the government crush the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square — but today, the PLA would intervene less out of ideology than to protect its flourishing business empire.

Western experts in Beijing say the leadership rewarded the rescue act by giving the army a stake in the economic liberalisation that is transforming China and making some of its citizens rich.

Five years on, the PLA now runs more than 20,000 businesses ranging from transport to coal mines, hotels, restaurants, property and even night clubs.

"The Chinese regime knew what it was doing when it gave the military carte blanche to get rich on the pretext of economic reform," said one expert on the military. "But it may have underestimated the risks it was running of corruption and racketeering, bred by the cult of money."

In June 1989 only the PLA was capable of taking on the tens of thousands of demonstrators who had taken over Asia's best-known square in a seven-week campaign for democracy. The regular police and the People's Armed Police (PAP) militia were completely unprepared for coping with mass unrest, and had let events spiral out of control.

"Today, the army wants to forget the incident and regain the respect it enjoyed among the people in Mao's time," said another specialist on PLA affairs.

"It no longer wants to be involved in operations against its own people — the police are there for that. But in the end the PLA would respond again today if it is not worthy of blind trust."

asked. Since Tiananmen Square, the PAP has nearly doubled in size from 533,000 men to almost a million, and has acquired equipment suitable for controlling urban protests: water cannon, electric prods, tear gas and armoured personnel carriers.

"The PAP has studied methods used in South Korea, Japan and Europe and has improved its tactics and response time," the expert said.

The 50,000 PAP troops stationed in Beijing would be able to cut off all access routes to the city centre in record time, the expert said. But sinologist David Shambaugh of London University said: "If they fail, there is no doubt in my mind that the PLA will be turned to, and do what they are asked to do."

Shambaugh, who was in Beijing recently, is convinced the three-million-strong PLA is playing an ever-increasing role in the political life of the country.

"It is a state within the state, perhaps the most powerful institutional lobby here," he said.

Since the collapse of the Soviet bloc and the introduction of economic reforms by Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese public and its Communist Party have been going through an ideological crisis.

"The rush to make money has contaminated all social strata, including the party, and in case of an emergency only the army seems capable of closing ranks to keep order," a diplomat said.

But for how much longer, asked a military expert: "The military are no longer loyal to the party out of ideology, but because the party lets the army prosper. Caught between the interests of their business and their battalion, officers tend to go for the money and that kind of army respond again today if it is not worthy of blind trust."

ATTENTION OUR LOVLY KIDS
ALZARQA ZOO PARK OF MUNICIPALITY
PRESENTING DIFFERENT KINDS OF ANIMALS \ BIRDS
THE VERY TAME DIDDY TIGER, SAADO MONKEY, DOBY BEAR,
LOVLY HAYINA FOXES, LAMA, DWARFGOATS, RACCOON
REDDEER, ALOT OF OTHER KINDS ANIMALS \ BIRDS

OPNNING TIME 8.00 MORNING 10.00 EVYING

OPEC keeps output ceiling unchanged

Following hints from the past two weeks that the leading producers in the 12-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would raise prices in the event of sharp fluctuations in the oil market, the group has decided to keep its production ceiling unchanged at 24.52 million barrels a day (MBD) for the remainder of this year.

The decision was announced by OPEC's new president, Libyan Oil Minister Abdullah Salem Al Badri. The ministers simply reconfirmed a decision they made at the end of last March to keep OPEC's production ceiling unchanged at 24.52

million barrels a day (MBD) for the remainder of this year.

Delegates said the ministerial talks on production and pricing strategy had been unusually relaxed with "no quarrelling on any issue."

"You don't change course when things move in the right direction," commented a senior official of an OPEC country usually described as a "price hawk."

Oil prices have rebounded since OPEC ministers met in Geneva in March, clearly improving the mood in the 12 delegations.

OPEC Secretary General Subroto told reporters the ministers set their regular year-end conference for Nov. 16 in Vienna, and specified they agreed there would be "no other (OPEC) meeting between now and November," as advocated by Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh reportedly OPEC's leading price hawk, said that the current ceiling would be "good" for the fourth quarter when demand is bound to rise.

The OPEC secretariat now foresees that the call on OPEC crudes may rise to 26.2 MBD at that time, 1.4 MBD up on the group's average output of 24.8 MBD in the past few months.

Tighter supply would push up prices, oil industry analysts conceded. But they said much would depend on whether OPEC members were able to resist the temptation to exceed the output quotas assigned to them.

Dr. Subroto said quota compliance had been "quite satisfactory" since the beginning of the year. In May, he said, total output was estimated at 24.9 MBD, slightly higher than in the first quarter.

Mr. Aghazadeh, who usually never wastes any opportunity to press for production cutbacks to bolster prices, told reporters he agreed with Sheikh Nazer's view that there was no need for OPEC ministers to meet in September.

The Saudis have argued that setting a September meeting could reduce the credibility of the decision to keep the ceiling unchanged, and trigger speculation and downward pressure on prices.

Opening OPEC's regular mid-year conference, the outgoing chairman, Qatar's Oil Minister Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah, earlier said the recent rebound in prices was largely due to the March decision to keep the ceiling for the remainder of the year.

OPEC prices have recovered by over \$3 a barrel to about \$16 but still remain \$5 below the target reference price of \$21 a barrel.

Dr. Subroto also announced that OPEC ministers had agreed to maintain OPEC's headquarters in Vienna.

Weekly analysis of movements, trends of major world currencies

This report, which covers the week from Thursday, June 9, 94 to Wednesday, June 15, 94, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch-Dubai.

Overview

Fundamental view: The dollar continues to trade with a bias toward weakness despite relative outperformance of U.S. bond market compared to foreign markets in recent weeks. Outflows of U.S. portfolio capital are probably down sharply this year, but concerns about ongoing deterioration in the U.S. balance of payments appear to limit the dollar's potential to rally, U.S. policy makers still appear to favour a firm dollar to curb inflation.

Technical view: The U.S. dollar index posted its first loss in three weeks as the greenback lost ground against five of the six currencies that we most regularly monitor. Sentiment for the dollar is generally viewed as neutral-to-oversold. Price action has stabilised in recent weeks and momentum is showing signs of turning up. Support for the index exists at 93.150 and 93.30. The ability to rally back through 93.50-94.00 would add momentum and would add substance to the bottom-building argument; a move through 93.30 would likely confirm it.

Deutschemark

Fundamental view: The dollar is showing resumed weakness against the Deutschemark, despite better performance of the U.S. bond market relative to European bond markets in recent weeks. Upward revisions to forecasts for European growth have raised questions about the sustainability of any dollar rallies, with pan-German growth of 3.2 per cent next year and French growth of 3.4 per cent expected to outpace expected U.S. growth of 3.0 per cent.

Technical view: The Deutschemark rallied 0.2 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. Medium term sentiment is at its most overbought reading in many months. Short term momentum is near oversold, but medium term oscillators are peaking. This suggests that current short term strength may only be part of the final topping process. Nonetheless, it may still require a decline through 1.675-1.695 DM/USD to confirm that a peak is, in fact, in place.

Pound sterling
Fundamental view: The British pound rose with the German mark against the dollar in the past week, to U.S.\$/GBP 1.52, but traded lower against the DM, near DM/GBP 2.50. In the near-term, we expect the pound to continue to trade in the 2.47-to-2.52 range that it has held since the beginning of March. In the longer-term, the pound should be able to benefit from a rising short-term rate premium against the mark. Signs of stronger economic growth reinforce our belief that U.K. base rates have bottomed, but we think they are unlikely to be raised this year because we foresee no upward pressure on inflation in light of significant spare capacity. In fact, average earnings for April came in better-than-expected causing a rally in the gilt market.

On balance, we continue to expect the dollar to remain in the DM 1.60-to-1.70 range for most of the next year and maintain our 12-month target of DM/USD 1.70. **Technical view:** The Deutschemark rallied 0.2 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. Medium term sentiment is at its most overbought reading in many months. Short term momentum is near oversold, but medium term oscillators are peaking. This suggests that current short term strength may only be part of the final topping process. Nonetheless, it may still require a decline through 1.675-1.695 DM/USD to confirm that a peak is, in fact, in place.

First resistance remains at 1.63-1.64, with second resistance at last October's high near 1.59. The mark/yen cross-rate remains in its multi-month trading range. While medium term momentum is constructive, short term momentum is weak. As long as this conflict remains in place, any nearby pullback is likely to be fairly well contained. Nearby support is at 65.25 and 62.40-62.80.

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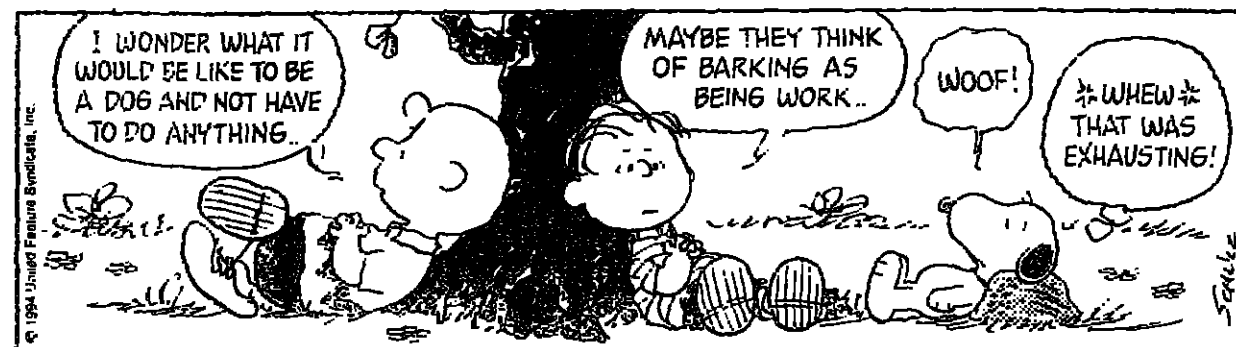
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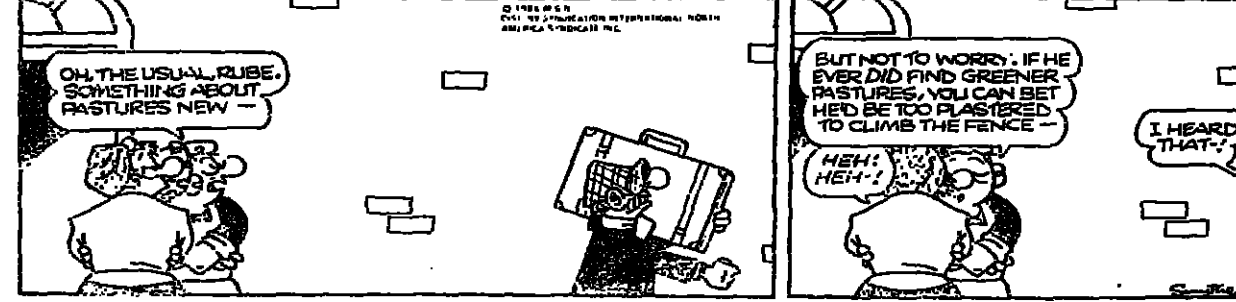
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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 17, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Delving deeply into philosophical studies pay big dividends today as you learn to accept conditions as they are and stop worrying about things that are not within your power to change at present.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A good day to get much done which is personal in nature. Study your surroundings and make long-range plans for improvement.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take steps to improve your environment. You are able to have more rapport with your loved one. Think logically and act wisely.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Let your friends spell out clearly what they desire of you where recreations are concerned and go along with them if feasible to you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be sure you follow through with promises you've made and keep out of trouble if possible. Think constructively for the future.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good day to engage in new outlets, provided you have studied them well. Make this a most productive day for you with projects.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Plan how to handle regular duties more efficiently. Avoid expensive mistakes by being more alert to what you are doing. Put your talents to work.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Show more interest in civic affairs and gain more respect. Allow time to engage in your favorite hobby with congenial friends.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take extra time ironing out wrinkles in tasks at hand. Meet new persons who can help enrich your life in many ways not immediately aware of.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is an ideal time to engage in your favourite hobby with friends. Take health treatments and improve your appearance.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There are new interests you can look into which could be beneficial in the future. Don't neglect regular chores you have not completed.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Plan how to make your routine tasks more efficient so that you need not worry so much, whether they are done. Use care in travel.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take no undue risks where recreation is concerned early in the day. Enjoy outside affairs by using clever routines to get everything done.

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey Estes

ACROSS

1 Shepherd's word

5 Health fairs

9 Airplane

13 Bread spread

14 Item of makeup

15 Sea bird

16 Grand Old

17 Dramatist

18 Church section

19 Some guy

20 King's title

22 Lower shooter

24 "Casablanca"

25 Crowded down

26 Starred a staple

27 Alphabet run

28 Put into districts

30 Oklahoma city

31 Vintage car

32 Susan of TV

33 Taking care of things

38 Soap ingredient

40 Voice role

41 Sharp flavor

42 Medicated

43 Claps

44 Center of interest

47 Rocky Adam

48 Sheriff

50 Guano

51 Religious no-no

54 River in Germany

56 Well

57 Theater guide

58 Miffed state

59 Craft status

60 Big beast, briefly

61 Post-Malay

62 Snoots

64 Cautious var.

DOWN

1 Apprehending

2 "Starface" actor

3 Romeo's pal

4 Lad

5 Colossal

6 Possession by all

7 Timeworn

8 Valticos

9 Meadows

10 Annie, e.g.

11 At the work area

12 Cheap

14 Foray

20 With a

21 Punch-drunk

22 Rain remnant

23 Chicken serving

27 Drove

28 Seafood nam

31 Map abov

32 Alcohol-free

34 Mar von

35 Travel org.

36 Hospitable house

37 Arriving

38 Cp. for Couples

42 honor (wedding vnp)

43 Water nymph

44 Polluted

45 Across Mason

46 Cartographer's product

48 Grave

50 Spanish painter

52 Grazing grounds

53 Lorry

55 Hold

56 Peck

58 Champagne word

هذا من اجل

Africa says donors' democracy-for-aid linkages are blackmail

HARARE (AFP) — African countries have to work harder to get the Western aid they need for economic development, now that Western donors are setting "good governance" rules as a precondition for funding.

But after a meeting of 14 African countries with donor representatives here last

week, sponsored by the World Bank, some are beginning to say that the new conditions being set are tantamount to blackmail. African governments, whose economies are in crisis due to past mismanagement, find themselves in a dilemma. They need foreign aid to resuscitate their economies, but while some Africans see

the conditions as a useful way of keeping their leaders on their toes, others feel patronised.

The host of the two-day Global Coalition for Africa (GCA) meeting, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, stressed that good governance was accepted as vital throughout Africa, "as democracy cannot be complete without it."

But he opposed making aid conditional on performance in good governance, human rights, gender sensitivity and environment.

"We totally reject this kind of linkage (...) it is blackmail," he said. "We recognise the need for a correct political environment, one conducive to investment (...). But linkage between good governance and aid is undesirable."

Western analysts justify democracy-for-aid linkages as a way of ensuring the funds are not wasted. They are supported by some African critics who feel their rulers need to show more accountability.

An article in a local independent weekly here, the Financial Gazette, recently complained that African leaders did not want to discuss good governance because they know they would be made accountable "to something more than their mute peasant electorate."

"African leaders should realise that they can no longer be allowed the liberty of having their cake and eating it," the columnist said.

In an editorial, the paper added that donors "do not want to throw their money into a potential Zaire, for any country that keeps its people without food, shelter and clothing is bound to erupt into civil or political strife sooner or later."

The Washington-based GCA was set up in Maasricht in 1990, with the assistance of the World Bank, as a forum for African countries and Western donors to develop a new partnership, help cut poverty and achieve eco-

nomie growth, political reform and regional integration.

One of the items on last week's agenda was setting up a mechanism for self-assessment of political governance by African countries, to be linked to development assistance.

The meeting — the fourth since the GCA's formation — agreed that Africans should define their own priorities and the nature of support required and take responsibility for assessing and improving their systems of govern-

ance.

"It was stressed that self-assessment is not a 'policing exercise' imposed from outside, but a process which should be voluntary and conducted according to the circumstances pertaining in each country."

Botswana President Festus Moseke, co-chairman of the GCA advisory committee, said in a statement.

Veteran African statesman and former Tanzanian leader, Julius Nyerere, said that although donors had a right to tie conditions to their aid

they had no authority to discuss the performance of African leaders.

"These people have colonised Africa for years, and what gives you the idea that they are now more interested in the welfare of Africans than the leaders who have been chosen by the people?" Mr. Nyerere said.

"Of course we all need sensible policies, but there is this blessed attitude that if you leave these things in the hands of Africans, nothing sensible will come out," he pointed out.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKETS				
DAILY TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD 15/6/1994 - 15/6/1994				
MARKET				
MARKET	PRICE	CHANGE	PRICE	CHANGE
AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN BOND MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN COMMODITY MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN FOREIGN EXCHANGE	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN OIL MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN METALS MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN AGRICULTURAL MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN INDUSTRIAL MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN SERVICES MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN REAL ESTATE MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN TRANSPORT MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN UTILITIES MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN MEDIA MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN CULTURE MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN SPORTS MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN RECREATION MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN HEALTH MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN EDUCATION MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN SOCIAL MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN ENVIRONMENTAL MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN SCIENCE MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN TECHNOLOGY MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN INNOVATION MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN DESIGN MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN ART MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN CRAFT MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN FASHION MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN BEAUTY MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN FITNESS MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN WELLNESS MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN LIFESTYLE MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN HOBBIES MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN PASTIMES MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN GAMES MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN TOYS MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN BOOKS MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN MUSIC MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN FILM MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN THEATRE MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN CONCERT MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN OPERA MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN BALLET MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN DANCE MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN MUSICIANS MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN ACTORS MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN WRITERS MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN ARTISTS MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN DESIGNERS MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN CRAFTSMEN MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN FASHION DESIGNERS MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN BEAUTY SALONS MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN FITNESS CENTRES MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
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AMMAN DESIGNERS CENTRES MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN CRAFTSMEN CENTRES MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN FASHION DESIGNERS CENTRES MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN BEAUTY SALONS CENTRES MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN FITNESS CENTRES CENTRES MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
AMMAN WELLNESS CENTRES CENTRES MARKET	10,000	0.000	10,000	0.000
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U.N. alarmed by Bosnia truce violations

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. peacekeeping officers said Friday an upsurge in shooting and shelling in central and northern Bosnia jeopardised the week-old temporary ceasefire between Serb and Muslim-led forces.

British Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, United Nations peacekeeping commander in Bosnia, appealed to Serb and Bosnian army officers to uphold the shaky truce, a U.N. spokeswoman said in Sarajevo.

"We consider this increase (in fighting) to be unacceptable and General Rose has communicated his concern by letter to the commanders on both sides," Claire Grimes, a spokeswoman for the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR), told reporters.

Bosnian Serb and mostly Muslim Bosnian army forces traded artillery fire southeast and north of the central town of Maglaj Wednesday, the UNPROFOR said.

The battlefronts of Brcko and Gradacac in northern Bosnia appeared unstable, with U.N. observers reporting six tank rounds fired and heavy machine gun fire in the area.

Ceasefire violations in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo were on the rise as well, mainly in the western suburbs

of Dobrinja and Nedzarici, the United Nations said.

A Bosnian army sniper shot dead a Serb soldier Wednesday morning in Nedzarici and a Serb sniper shot and killed a civilian and wounded two people in the city.

Inter-Muslim fighting had subsided slightly in the northwest enclave of Bihać, where Bosnian government troops have advanced against breakaway Muslim soldiers loyal to local strongman Fikret Abdic over the past week.

U.N. officials and Western diplomats say the warring sides must quickly return to the negotiating table while the fragile truce holds.

The month-long truce was designed to pave the way for political negotiations on a peace proposal promoted by U.S., Russian and European diplomats.

Diplomats from the major powers' "contact group" on Bosnia met in London Thursday to discuss further the division of the country between Muslim and Croat allies and their Serb foes.

Before the meeting, diplomats said they planned to complete a proposed peace map that would give Muslims and Croats 51 per cent of the country and the Bosnian Serbs 49 per cent.

But the Bosnian Serbs, who have conquered 70 per cent of the former Yugoslav republic after 26 months of war, reiterated their opposition Thursday to maps currently under consideration, Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported.

"The maps being discussed by the contact group are far from what the Serbs could accept," said Momcilo Krajisnik, speaker of the self-declared Bosnian Serb Republic's assembly.

"The maps have been presented to us preliminarily, but we expect some improvements and corrections. If they are realised, then it will be a fortunate circumstance for restoring peace to Bosnia," Mr. Krajisnik was quoted as saying.

Talks aimed at ending disputes elsewhere in ex-Yugoslavia suffered a setback Thursday, U.N. mediators called off negotiations on normalising economic ties between Croatia and rebel Serbs from the breakaway Krajina region because of Serb objections on procedural issues.

The Serbs had barred Croatian journalists from attending the talks which were to be held in the Serb-held Plitvice Lake resort, U.N. mediators said.

The U.S. ambassador to Croatia, Peter Galbraith, said further procedural "antics" by Krajina Serbs could lead to a disastrous new war.

War broke out in 1991 when minority Serbs rebelled against Croatia's declaration of independence from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia, a U.N. ceasefire has stopped clashes between the Croatian army and the Serbs, who presently control about one-third of Croatia.

Gen. Rose pleaded Thursday for both sides to agree on a compromise to end the conflict as neither could win by force.

Speaking to the press, he said: "I don't think the people of this country wish to continue with this war on either side. It's going to have to be a compromise."

Gen. Rose said the consequences of continuing the war in Bosnia government, which recently came to terms with its former Croat opponents, and the Bosnian Serbs, would be disastrous.

He said it would take two to three years for government forces to reach the stage where they could wage a war of manoeuvre in a significant way, and a lot longer to regain all the territories lost to the Serbs since the conflict began two years ago.

Haitian leader calls for new elections to resolve crisis

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) — Haiti's army-backed interim president said Thursday that new elections represent the "only honourable solution" to the crisis that has persisted in the country since a 1991 military coup.

President Emile Jonassant, whose government is not recognised outside Haiti, said the international community is seeking "to impose on the Haitian people, against their will, a political system and leaders they have rejected."

The United States and the Organisation of American States have been pressing for the restoration of elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted in September 1991.

But Jonassant said such a move would "open the door to civil war" and "allow those who have taken refuge abroad the opportunity and the satisfaction of seeing their country occupied by foreign powers."

Haitian leaders have declared a state of emergency amid fears of a possible U.S. invasion, and Wednesday Haitian troops marched in the capital and two other cities to show their determination to stand up to any foreign intervention.

Meanwhile, the first group of U.S. diplomats' family members left Port-au-Prince Thursday. Seven people, including women and children, were seen off by U.S.

Ambassador William Swing. About 70 diplomatic family members, including Mr. Swing's wife, are due to leave Haiti before the U.S. ban on commercial air traffic takes effect June 25, part of sanctions imposed by Washington to increase the pressure on Haiti's military rulers.

Meanwhile, sources in Port-au-Prince said the Panamanian airline Copa had decided to suspend service to Haiti when U.S. and Canadian airlines stop their flights June 25.

The only airlines that have not announced a suspension are the Dutch KLM, which flies to Curacao, and Air France, which serves Santa Domingo, Guadeloupe and Paris.

The United States began screening Haitian refugees for political asylum aboard a U.S. naval ship off the coast of Jamaica Thursday, U.S. and U.N. officials said.

Thirty-five Haitian refugees in three boats were intercepted at sea by U.S. Coast Guard Wednesday and transferred Thursday to the U.S. naval hospital ship Comfort, anchored off Kingston, a Defence Department spokesman in Washington told AFP.

The refugees were "taken directly to the ship" and did not set foot on Jamaican soil, said Commander Jone Grady.

The group is the first to be

processed under a new U.S. policy to allow Haitians' claims for political asylum to be heard aboard ships in the Caribbean or at a land-based facility to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Jamaica and the Turks and Caicos are the only two countries to respond to the U.S. plea for help in resolving the refugee problem.

U.S. President Bill Clinton announced the policy shift on May 8, yielding to growing criticism in Congress and elsewhere that his policy of forced repatriation violated international law and human rights.

Mr. Clinton had reneged on his campaign promise to end the policy begun by his predecessor George Bush after a military coup deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in September 1991.

Kofi Asofom, the U.N. High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) special envoy for Haiti, told reporters here that only two countries — the Caribbean island of Antigua and Suriname — have indicated a willingness to resettle Haitian refugees denied entry to the United States.

He said seven Central and South American countries have rejected the UNHCR's request that they resettle Haitians. Other countries were still considering the request, he said.

Aide pays \$562 to close case of missing towels

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A White House aide paid the U.S. Navy \$562 for towels and bathrobes that disappeared from an aircraft carrier on which President Bill Clinton stayed during his trip to Normandy, officials said Thursday.

Communications Director Mark Gearan said White House scheduling director Ricki Seidman paid the money from her pocket "to dispel any notion of impropriety."

The navy had asked the White House for reimbursement for the items missing from the USS George Washington, which hosted Mr. Clinton along with 40 aides and 23 reporters during Mr. Clinton's visit to the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

The money was paid after a memo was issued to White House staffers asking for payment for 16 bathrobes and 68 towels from the aircraft carrier, some with the ship's insignia. "As you know, the ship and U.S. Navy served as our gracious hosts during this trip," the memo said. "They requested these items for our use, not as souvenirs."

Jack Lemmon in Toronto hospital for tests

TORONTO (R) — Oscar-winning actor Jack Lemmon was reported in good condition in a Toronto hospital after undergoing medical tests. "He came in on his own for some tests and he had his tests done and he's doing ok," said Norma McCormack, the nurse supervisor at Toronto Hospital Western Division. "He is in very good condition," she added. "He is probably going to be discharged tonight."

Mr. McCormack declined to identify the actor's complaint or report what tests he had undergone. Lemmon arrived at the hospital in mid-afternoon. The 69-year-old screen actor has been in Toronto since May 30 shooting a comedy film *Getting Away With Murder* that also stars Lily Tomlin and Dan Aykroyd. Lemmon won an Academy Award in 1973 for *Save the Tiger* and a best supporting actor Oscar in 1955 for *Mister Roberts*.

Saved by a heart of gold

NEWPORT, Wales (AFP) — A 61-year-old man was given a new lease of life thanks to a heart of gold. Graham Rhodes was fitted with a heart pacemaker made of the precious metal after his body rejected devices made of titanium six times in seven years. Speaking after the operation to insert the 300 (\$450) device, he said: "I feel great. Everyone is joking about me being the golden boy now."

Germany blows up bridge where U.S. met Soviets

BERLIN (R) — German road authorities blew up the historic but decaying Torgau Bridge, where U.S. and Soviet armies joined forces to finally defeat Nazi Germany, police said Friday. A Torgau police spokesman confirmed a report on German radio that one segment of the 124-year-old bridge, spanning the Elbe River, 150 kilometres south of Berlin was blown up by highway engineers late Thursday evening. He said the rest of the bridge, which has been closed to traffic since a new bridge running next to it was completed last year, would be destroyed in the near future.

Japan health guru nabbed in vegetable soup claim

TOKYO (R) — Japanese police have arrested a self-styled health guru who claimed his vegetable soup was so potent it could cause cancer cells to disappear in days. A police spokesman in Fukuoka, southern Japan, said Friday that Kazu Tateishi, 60, was alleged to have examined patients and sold medicine without the proper licences. Mr. Tateishi, who was arrested Thursday, gained media fame with his book *The Original Vegetable Soup Health Diet*. Enthusiasts for the clear soup are reported to have included former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, who appeared to make a remarkable recovery after a serious gallbladder ailment widely believed to be cancer.

Mexico's peace negotiator quits

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — Manuel Camacho, the government's negotiator in the failed peace talks with rebels in Chiapas, said he quit his post and would stay out of politics until after the Aug. 21 presidential elections.

Mr. Camacho told a press conference late Thursday that he had notified President Carlos Salinas of his decision by letter.

Five days after rebel leaders in southern Chiapas rejected a 32-point government peace plan he helped put together, Mr. Camacho lashed out at Ernesto Zedillo, the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party's (PRI) presidential candidate, for hindering the peace effort.

Mr. Zedillo has described the peace plan's rejection as a "defeat" for the government, blaming it indirectly on Mr. Camacho.

Such criticism, Mr. Camacho said, "has weakened both the government's negotiating policy and the capability of the peace commissioner (Camacho) to make further strides towards peace."

After lengthy consultation with ethnic Mayans in southern Chiapas, the Zapatista National Liberation Army Saturday rejected the government's peace plan, saying that negotiations could re-

sume only after clean and fair elections were held.

In its peace offer, the government promised to sharply improve conditions in the impoverished, largely Indian Chiapas, but it refused rebel demands to link national political changes to a settlement.

Mr. Camacho's surprise resignation — only a few days after he vowed to remain on the political scene — indicates a rift within the PRI, which has ruled the country uninterrupted for the past 65 years.

A close friend of Mr. Salinas and a former foreign minister and Mexico City mayor, Mr. Camacho, 43, had hopes of becoming the PRI's presidential candidate until Mr. Salinas designated Luis Colosio in November.

Mr. Colosio was assassinated during a political rally in Tijuana in March, and Mr. Zedillo was picked as a replacement. Mr. Camacho, at the time, was involved with the peace talks in Chiapas.

Mr. Camacho, however, had already distanced himself from the PRI's conservative platform by expounding a policy of dialogue and compromise and insisting on the need for a transition to democracy.

Mr. Camacho hinted at those differences in his press

conference, saying that "economic change must address the needs of social groups development has sidestepped."

Mr. Camacho said the Chiapas uprising in January — that left some 150 people dead — was a warning that must not go unheeded, or "we could face tougher, more hostile and generalised insecurity in the future, over wider regions of the country."

As the PRI's internal struggle increased with the Chiapas rebellion, Mr. Colosio's death, the kidnapping of a Mexico City billionaire and now with Mr. Camacho's resignation, the rival National Action Party (PAN, conservative) has picked up steam, with its presidential candidate Diego Fernandez ahead in the opinion polls.

By leaving the political arena until after the next change of government on Nov. 30, Mr. Camacho has dispelled rumours that suggested he would run for president as an independent.

After Mr. Camacho's announcement, Mr. Salinas issued a statement thanking the peace envoy for helping to bring about the ceasefire in Chiapas on Jan. 12, and for "his effort and determination to consolidate peace."

Mahathir: Al Arqam is security threat

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad said Friday the Al Arqam Islamic movement is a security threat to Muslim Malaysia and action would be taken to stop it from spreading its ideology.

"Al Arqam is teaching a religion that is not Islam. We have to take action before their deviationist teaching spreads," he said, answering reporters' questions after opening an Islamic civilisation festival in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

Vernacular newspaper quoted Malaysia's Islamic centre as saying that the banned Al Arqam has about 100 armed militants among its 100,000 followers in the country.

However, the movement's leaders have denied the allegations and called for a dialogue with the government to solve the matter.

Al Arqam claims that their leader Asaari Mohammad is the long-awaited Imam Mahadi or messiah. He is in hiding overseas. Al Arqam used to say that they wanted to rule the country but have kept low since 1991 when the government banned them.

Mr. Mahathir, who also holds the powerful post of home minister, said the government will educate Muslims on the dangers of Al Arqam's teachings before taking other action against the movement.

"These movements start off small but before long they grow and aim to take over the government just like in other Muslim countries. We have to prevent this," he added.

O.J. Simpson attends slain ex-wife's funeral

LOS ANGELES (R) — O.J. Simpson attended the funeral service for his ex-wife, who was stabbed to death along with a male companion in a double murder in which the former football great is reported to be the prime suspect.

As Mr. Simpson, 46, joined other mourners in a funeral mass for Nicole Brown Simpson in the exclusive Brentwood section of Los Angeles, Ronald Goldman was being buried in Westlake Village, 20 miles (34 km) away.

Mrs. Nicole Simpson, 35, and Mr. Goldman, 25, were stabbed to death Sunday night outside her \$700,000 Brentwood townhouse.

While news reports have

focused on Mr. Simpson as the main and sole suspect, police have remained tight-lipped and his lawyer has maintained his innocence. No charges have been filed.

Police are nearly ready to forward their investigation to the district attorney's office, but are discussing whether to arrest Mr. Simpson and then file charges or to first seek a grand jury indictment, the Los Angeles Times reported in its early Friday editions, citing unnamed sources.

Submitting the case to a grand jury could delay an arrest by several days, the newspaper said.

In the latest development to cast suspicion on the Hall of Fame running back, inves-

tigators interviewed a woman who said she saw a car that resembled Mr. Simpson's parked across the street from his ex-wife's condominium about the time of the murders, the newspaper reported.

The young woman, who said she jogs in the area every night, said she could not be sure anyone was in the car, but her description generally matched white Ford Bronco that police seized from Mr. Simpson's home, the Times reported.

Mr. Simpson, wearing a sombre dark suit, arrived Thursday at the St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church with the couple's 5-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter.

Conservatives, Liberals face off in tight Colombia poll runoff Sunday

BOGOTA (AFP) — Liberal candidate Ernesto Samper and Conservative Andres Pastrana are headed for a runoff Sunday in Colombia's closely contested, if uninspiring, presidential vote.

In the first run-off election in Colombia's history, voters will choose a successor to President Cesar Gaviria.

But the second round is expected to draw fewer than 40 per cent of the country's 17 million eligible voters.

In first-round voting May 29, Mr. Samper, a 45-year-old former minister of development under Mr. Gaviria, led Mr. Pastrana, 39, son of former President Misael Pastrana, by 0.3 per cent.

Mr. Samper took 45.2 per cent and Mr. Pastrana 44.9

per cent of the 5.8 million ballots cast. For a first-round win, a candidate would have to have drawn more than 50 per cent of the vote.

The abstention rate in Colombia, traditionally high, hit 67 per cent during the first round. Analysts predict it could be even higher this time due to two factors.

The country has been preoccupied with the aftermath of June 6 earthquakes and mudslides that killed more than 1,000 people.

And the second round coincides with the World Cup championships in football (soccer), the national pastime in Colombia, whose team is expected to do well.

Three World Cup matches are scheduled to be played

June 19, and the Colombian team will have played the day before.

Few significant policy differences divide the candidates of the country's main traditional parties. Both intend to continue with Mr. Gaviria's opening of the country to trade and investment, and both favour joining the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Instead of a policy debate the campaign appears to have become more a contest of traditional party loyalties, petty feuds and personalities.

Mr. Samper called for penalties against the television news programme "TV Hoy" — owned by the Pastrana family



Thai political activist Chalard Vorachet, who had fasted for 23 days to force constitutional reform, is taken to hospital after he surrendered to national police. Mr. Chalard vowed to continue his hunger strike in hospital (AFP photo)

Thai reform storm subsides — for now

BANGKOK (AFP) — The Thai government enjoyed a stay of execution as the country's press was divided Friday between anger and relief, following the spectacular climb-down by supporters of a more democratic constitution.

"PDP ready to quit the coalition," the Bangkok Post announced its front page, referring to the declaration of the day before by the Phalang Dharma Party that it would make a decision on the issue Monday.

The party has been at the centre of a major political crisis in Thailand since its decision to present in parliament a motion seeking the amendment of the new constitution in defiance of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai.

On Thursday the PDP, in a stunning about-face, abandoned the motion, which had been assured of support from the majority of opposition parties, as well as another member of the coalition, the Solidarity Party.

Several hours later, as thousands of people gathered

before parliament in support of constitutional reform, Buddhist activist Chalard Vorachet, who had been fasting at the site for 23 days, left for hospital while declaring to the crowd that he intended to pursue his hunger strike.

"A day of madness and treachery," read the title of a vitriolic Post editorial on what it called the "melodrama" of the previous day.

"For the Democrats (Chuan's party) this unforeseen event constitutes a double triumph in one day (but) nobody deserves the credit," wrote the English-language daily, which saw "intrigue and treachery" in Thursday's backroom manoeuvres which dissuaded the PDP from pursuing its motion.

"What trust is there for a government which is only good at political manoeuvring and intrigue, but which has completely failed in national administration," added the editorial, calling for new general elections.

For its part, the Nation reckoned that Mr. Chuan obtained "a respite" Thursday, adding that "the gift of time has now given all parties in the political impasse an opportunity to talk things over."

But "the prime minister too has to share a large part of the blame in the crisis" since "without doubt constitutional reforms are necessary in his country," "I now want to be called Mr. Investment."

He proposed rich countries give African nations a six-month moratorium on debt to help children, build schools and make clean water available.

If after that time a state had used the money for the benefit of its people and had observed human rights, the debt should be forgiven. Otherwise children had no future now and would never cope with the rising debt in the future.

Tutu challenges Vatican on birth control, abortion

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa called for a six-month moratorium on debts for African nations and challenged the Vatican's claims that population control was bad for the Third World.

Arch. Tutu was the main speaker at the annual Day of the African Child, which ended late Thursday with a gala festival of film stars, led by Harry Belafonte, political leaders and African dancers and musicians.

"I used to be called Mr. Sanctions," Arch. Tutu said, referring to his years of advocating embargoes against the former white-minority government in his country. "I now want to be called Mr. Investment."

He proposed rich countries give African nations a six-month moratorium on debt to help children, build schools and make clean water available.

If after that time a state had used the money for the benefit of its people and had observed human rights, the debt should be forgiven. Otherwise children had no future now and would never cope with the rising debt in the future.

Arch. Tutu, the 1984 Nobel Prize winner for his fight against apartheid, also said African states could help

by cutting down their armies. "Far too frequently they have not been used against external aggression but against their own citizens," he said.

"Our armies have usually been used to maintain in power those who were not chosen by the people," he said. It was time many learned that "freedom is cheaper than repression."

Arch. Tutu, the Anglican Church leader in Cape Town, went out of his way to refute the Vatican on birth control without ever mentioning the Catholic Church by name.

"Planned parenthood is an obligation of those who are Christians," he told a news conference. "Our church thinks we should use scientific methods that assist in planning of families."

He said it was far better to have the "children that we want them to say you must have children, no matter what."

The Vatican has mounted a vociferous campaign against a planned September U.N. population conference in Cairo, arguing that decadent developing countries were fostering their ideologies on poor nations.

It opposes measures in the U.N. draft document calling for women to have more power in deciding the size of



Archbishop Desmond Tutu (left) flanked by U.S. entertainer Harry Belafonte, speaks to the press at the United Nations (AFP photo)

their families. Moreover it objects to the fact abortion is not specifically condemned as it was 10 years ago when the United States agreed to anti-abortion plans.

Arch. Tutu said he approved of artificial contraception and said abortion was acceptable in a number

of situations, such as rape and incest. He specifically welcomed the aims of the Cairo conference.

UNICEF sponsors the Day of the African Child in memory of children in Soweto, massacred by South African police on June 16, 1976 for protesting apartheid.

مكتبة ابن جرير



Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) soldiers walk past the corpse of a woman killed by the pro-government militia before the city fell to the rebels (AFP photo)

Rich, poor pressed to share anti-AIDS burden

PARIS (R) — France's health minister warned senior officials from 40 nations Friday that both rich and poor regions would lose the battle against AIDS unless they worked more closely together on strategy.

"Everything shows that AIDS can be struck down everywhere or nowhere. Egoistic approaches are suicidal," France's Simone Veil told a conference of health ministers and world health agencies.

A Zambian infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS was also given the floor and warned against the meeting turning into "just another political jamboree."

Ms. Veil organised the two-day conference to help prepare a Paris summit of heads of state and government that France has proposed for Dec. 1.

But despite French pressure and hopes of committing more funds to the developing world, there is still no guarantee the December summit will take place as wealthier nations drag their feet.

"Rich countries have a responsibility towards the poorer countries, which face a major catastrophe because of the pandemic... we need to show solidarity," Ms. Veil said.

Although the developing world has been hit hardest — Africa has about two thirds of the global total of 15 million cases — its health budget is dwarfed by that of the industrialised world.

Hiroshi Nakajima, director of the World Health Organisation, echoed Ms. Veil's appeal for a political mobilisation against the killer disease.

"The international community must mobilise to reduce the economic and social factors which make women, children and poorer people vulnerable," Mr. Nakajima said in a message.

A short speech by Zambia's Winston Zulu, who caught the HIV virus in 1990 when he was about to start studying politics, struck an emotional note in the conference's otherwise staid proceedings.

"Those of us with aids are worried that unless people seek our views and seek to stop discrimination, the Paris meeting will be just another political jamboree," he said, his open-necked shirt and light grey jacket contrasting with the ministers' regulation dark suits.

"It would be more useful if, with every pack of condoms you send to Africa, you

also sent treatment drugs.

French officials and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are counting on the June 17-18 meeting to endorse Paris' call for a December summit at which global measures could be adopted.

The agenda includes preventing the spread of AIDS, reducing the vulnerability of the poor, improving patient treatment, preventing the spread of AIDS through blood transfusion, and boosting efforts to find a vaccine.

Professor Luc Montagnier, the French researcher who discovered HIV, cautioned against what he said was a flagging anti-AIDS effort in Europe itself.

"I am somewhat concerned about some European countries who appear to no longer think that AIDS research is a priority," Dr. Montagnier said.

Hutu militia storm Rwanda hotel; U.N. peacekeeper killed in blast

KIGALI (R) — Pro-government Hutu militia, blamed for widespread massacres of Tutsi civilians in Rwanda, stormed a hotel sheltering refugees Friday as government and rebel officers held peace talks in another part of the capital.

Aid workers said the militia were scouring the Hotel Milles Collines (Thousand Hills) in the government-held centre of Kigali, hunting for members of the minority Tutsi tribe, the dominant force in the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

In a separate incident, a U.N. peacekeeper from Uruguay was killed and a peacekeeper from Bangladesh was wounded when a mortar bomb hit their vehicle in a rebel-controlled area 20 kilometres (13 miles) north of Kigali, a U.N. spokesman said.

Rebel and army representatives Friday resumed U.N.-mediated talks on how to implement an African-brokered ceasefire after fighting heavy battles in the capital.

"The talks have begun, they are taking place now," a U.N. official told Reuters. He said the commander of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), Major-General Romeo Dallaire, was chairing the talks at U.N. headquarters.

The two sides last met Wednesday, final day of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit where African leaders, keen to stop ethnic slaughter which has killed an estimated 500,000 people, brokered a ceasefire

that has yet to take hold.

Aid workers and U.N. officials said the Hutu militia stormed the Hotel Milles Collines, home to some 500 refugees, and began shooting inside the building.

"The militia are shooting. I don't know if they have killed anyone," U.N. Major John Guy Plante said. Maj. Plante said four U.N. military observers were in the hotel trying to save lives.

He said the raid by the militia appeared to be in retaliation for an overnight RPF raid on a militia-controlled religious complex from which they freed some 600 refugees.

On Tuesday pro-government militia of the Hutu majority raided the church inside the Sainte Famille complex and abducted 60 Tutsi teenagers. Witnesses said they were butchered nearby.

Maj. Plante said the dead peacekeeper was in a U.N. marked vehicle. The wounded man was evacuated to Kigali.

Maj. Plante said the two were travelling to the northern government town of Ruhengeri on a routine military observation mission when the incident occurred.

He said the U.N. had no idea who was responsible. The talks started after heavy fighting with artillery, mortars and machineguns died down.

The fighting, from dusk Thursday to dawn Friday, had forced the U.N. to cancel plans to evacuate hundreds of civilians trapped behind

Kigali's battle lines.

"It looks like the RPF are going after the whole city," a U.N. officer replied when asked whether he thought the fighting signalled a final assault on the blood-soaked city.

In Brussels, the Western European Union (WEU) defence group called a meeting Friday to discuss possible military intervention in Rwanda aimed at preventing further ethnic slaughter, diplomats said.

France and Italy had suggested the meeting but diplomats said there was little enthusiasm among most members of the nine-nation WEU for sending troops to Rwanda.

France, protesting at "culpable inaction" by the international community, has said a possible intervention in Rwanda, including forces from European and African states, could be organised by the WEU under a United Nations mandate.

France, Britain, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands are WEU members.

Long overshadowed by NATO during the cold war, the WEU has won a new lease of life as the future defence arm of the 12-nation European Union. A military operation in Rwanda would mark its first major challenge.

The defence group has taken a minor role in the Yugoslav conflict, sending warships to the Adriatic to enforce U.N. sanctions against Serbia as well as

police and customs officers to do the same job on the Danube.

France denied a report in the Belgian newspaper Le Soir Friday alleging that two French soldiers were involved in shooting down a plane carrying the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Thursday several countries had told France they were ready to join it but declined to name them. Italy, Belgium, Spain and other European and African states had been asked, he said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said Friday 10,700 Rwandan corpses had been found in Lake Victoria, but tests showed its water and fish were no more dangerous to drink and eat than usual.

Ugandan authorities continue to recover and bury victims of massacres carried by the River Kagera, which flows through Rwanda, into the huge lake.

But a statement by WHO said an independent microbiological and biochemical study it had commissioned "found no evidence of any significant additional risks to public health ascribable to the presence of corpses in the lake."

The U.N. agency said Lake Victoria's untreated water was not recommended for human consumption at any time, and urged Ugandans to follow guidelines to prevent cholera including thoroughly cooking raw food, keeping raw and cooked foods separate, and boiling or chlorinating drinking water.

5 navies wrap up Rimpac war games

ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE, Off Hawaii (R) — Amid tension over North Korea's nuclear row and U.S. calls to beef up its military in South Korea, the navies of the United States, South Korea, Japan, Canada and Australia wrapped up their month-long naval exercise Thursday off Hawaii.

The largest naval war games of its kind in the Pacific, Rimpac '94 brought together 50 vessels, 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel from the five countries in manoeuvres which climaxed with a simulated battle between opposing fleets last week.

"We were able to confirm we can conduct interoperability (between the different navies)," said Rear Admiral Bernard Smith, commander of the U.S. battle group built around the aircraft carrier Independence.

"All of the navies gained from this," Adm. Smith told a brief interview aboard the independence, where teams of F-15 Tomcat fighters and A-6 Intruder attack planes roared to a halt on its heated flight deck.

Main ships of the five countries, including the Inde-

pendence, a second U.S. carrier, the Constellation, the Australian frigate Sydney, the Canadian frigate Vancouver and the Japanese destroyer Kongō were to steam in a show of force into Pearl Harbour.

The Rimpac Games, short for Rim of the Pacific and held every two years, started in 1970 to prepare for a showdown with the former Soviet Pacific Fleet. Now, the navies eye regional conflicts in the post-cold war era.

During the manoeuvres, the ships practiced everything from submarine hunting, air defence, surface combat to refuelling each other's vessels on the high seas.

Although Adm. Smith and commanders of other navies denied Rimpac 94 was directly linked to North Korea, military analysts said it served to prepare for a possible naval blockade against North Korea, especially enforcing some of the later phases of sanctions suggested by the United States.

Earlier this week, the U.N. Security Council began informal discussions on Washington's sanctions package, brought on by North Korea's refusal to allow unfettered inspections of its nuclear fac-

ilities and subsequent withdrawal from the nuclear watchdog agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

President Bill Clinton said the United States would pursue sanctions. At the same time, he expressed willingness to open high-level talks with Pyongyang after its latest overture which came in President Kim Il-Sung's meeting with former President Jimmy Carter in the North Korean capital.

Japanese military commentator Haruo Fujii said ships from the same five navies could eventually be called in to enforce an oil embargo against North Korea, the last and most harsh suggested punitive measure against the cash-strapped Stalinist country.

For its part, North Korea has criticised Rimpac as sabre-rattling by the United States and its allies.

"It is very ill-boding that the U.S. imperialists, Japanese reactionaries and South Korean puppets are going to stage the Rimpac war exercise in concert openly," its state-run Korean Central News Agency said before the games started at the end of May.

Russia to sign NATO partnership next week

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev will sign NATO's Partnership for Peace scheme on closer military links with the West next Wednesday, an alliance spokesman said Friday.

The announcement signals a possible easing of tensions between NATO and Russia. Moscow has been locked in disputes with the alliance over key European security issues and has demanded special ties with NATO reflecting its status as a major power.

Diplomats said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would also meet Mr. Kozyrev in Brussels next Wednesday and that other NATO foreign ministers may attend the meeting.

"We have been informed by the Russian embassy that Foreign Minister Kozyrev is coming to NATO headquarters to sign partnership for peace on the morning of Wednesday, June 22," an alliance spokesman said.

In Moscow, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday Mr. Kozyrev is to sign Wednesday both NATO's Partnership for Peace programme and a protocol on bilateral ties between Russia and NATO.

Andrei Androsov, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Relations with NATO, said Mr. Kozyrev would travel to Brussels Tuesday and sign the documents the next day.

The protocol aimed to give relations between the North Atlantic alliance and Russia a fresh "impulse for cooperation," Mr. Androsov said, adding that the document was currently being finalised.

NATO invited Moscow earlier this week to start immediate talks on the troubled relationship between Russia and the West.

Russia had postponed signing the partnership earlier this year, saying it wanted recognition of its special status in European security from the 16-nation Western alliance.

Twenty other countries, many of them from Eastern Europe, have already signed the partnership.

NATO has offered Russia a broader dialogue on issues such as nuclear arms and Bosnia, as a sign that it recognises Russia's size and weight.

Yeltsin prepares for crime crackdown

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin flew back from the Russian Far East to supervise final preparations Friday for a crackdown on ruthless mafia-style gangs flourishing in the post-Communist era.

Mr. Yeltsin held a 45-minute airport meeting with Interior Minister Viktor Yerin, administration chief Sergei Filatov and Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev as soon as his plane touched down Thursday night. ITAR-TASS news agency said.

A scheduled meeting with visiting Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet Friday was cancelled, according to TASS, to allow the president to deal with urgent issues that arose during his three-day tour of Russia's remote Far East and Siberia.

Mr. Yeltsin was almost certainly concentrating on plans for implementing his decree on fighting organised crime, a boom "industry" in Russia's underworld.

Mr. Yeltsin has given the Interior Ministry and domestic security service, the FSK, until early next week to present its plans for concrete action.

He has also ordered the army to prepare backup for actions by Interior Ministry forces in tackling gangs that have penetrated to the core of business and political life

in Russia. Regional leaders have been told to prepare to impose special controls in cities where organised crime is a particular danger.

This could involve the introduction of an emergency regime in such economic centres as Moscow, St. Petersburg, Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Krasnodar and Rostov.

Mr. Yeltsin has kept a close secret precisely what he has in mind to fight the bands, who have certainly shown no sign of cooling their criminal ardour since the presidential decree.

On Thursday, gunmen opened fire with automatic rifles on four men in a Mercedes car in a busy area of central Moscow. One man was killed outright, two were shot dead as they tried to flee and a fourth was seriously injured.

Police said they had arrested a man who threw a small bomb at the door of an apartment flat in eastern Moscow Thursday night. The flat housed offices of Russia's largest car retail company, Logovaz — target of a series of recent attacks.

A Logovaz employee, a driver, was killed on June 7 in a car bomb attack on the company's head, Boris Berzovsky, outside the crowded Pavletsky Railway Station. The director escaped virtual-

ly unhurt. Logovaz has offered a two billion rouble (\$1 million) reward for information leading to the capture of those responsible for the attack.

Russia's State Duma, the lower chamber of parliament, was expected to condemn Mr. Yeltsin's decree in a session Friday.

A draft resolution circulated in parliament said the president had violated the law and constitution in giving police special powers to hold suspects, seize documents and investigate finances.

It did not question the need for a crackdown but said Mr. Yeltsin could not act without the backing of laws passed by the Duma. It urged him to suspend the decree, a wording that suggested the legislature might be prepared to accept it once a basis in law had been created.

Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the Duma's Security Committee, said parliament had prepared legislation that would give Mr. Yeltsin all the authority he needed to fight crime. Draft laws on corruption and on state emergencies were also ready, he said.

Provisions outlined in the draft in many ways matched the sweeping powers envisaged by Mr. Yeltsin in his decree.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ariane puts 3 satellites in Orbit

KOUROU, French Guiana (R) — Western Europe's 64th Ariane rocket placed three satellites in orbit early Friday after a launch from the jungles of French Guiana — the first Ariane launch since a failure in January. A malfunction in the rocket's third-stage on Jan. 24 led to the loss of Eutelsat 2-F5 and Turksat 1A — communications satellites valued at over \$250 million. Arianeespace, the Paris-based company that makes and markets Ariane rockets, said modifications were made to the rocket's third stage and verified by 29 test firings. January's setback was the sixth failure of an Ariane rocket since the programme began in 1979. It was the first failure since 1990, ending a streak of 26 straight successes.

"We are absolutely convinced that our (Ariane) launcher is more reliable now than ever," Arianeespace President Charles Bigot told a news conference on June 3. But on June 4 a first attempt to launch the payload was scrubbed five seconds before the end of countdown on account of a hydrogen-line fuelling problem. Friday's launch used an Ariane 4 LP rocket, equipped with two liquid and two solid strap-on boosters. The rocket lifted-off at 4:07 a.m. (0707 GMT) in a pitch-black equatorial night sky from the European Space Agency (ESA) launch centre at Kourou on South America's northeast coast.

Children hurt in N. Ireland attack

BELFAST (Agencies) — Several teenagers taking exams at a grammar school in Northern Ireland were injured Friday by a man wielding what was described as a flame-thrower, police said. The Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) said an unspecified number of youngsters were taken to hospital. They said three boys were badly hurt and a number of others were treated for burns as pupils ran screaming from a spray of flames in the incident at an assembly hall at Sullivan Upper at Holywood, County Down. Pupils were sitting for A level exams when a man about 40 pulled up in the school grounds in a Skoda car and attacked children with some kind of flame-thrower before fleeing, police said. Meanwhile the Ulster Volunteer Force, a Protestant-based paramilitary gang, said Friday it killed a Catholic taxi driver. The 27-year-old father of two was shot in the head and back as he sat at the wheel of his car in Carrickfergus, 10 miles (16 kms) north of Belfast, police said. A spokesman for the Royal Ulster Constabulary said the shooting happened early Friday morning.

27 U.S. bases to be closed in Europe

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Pentagon identified 27 U.S. military installations in Europe to be closed, including two large bases in Germany, officials said Thursday. A news release said the Neureut Barracks at Karlsruhe and the Rhein Ordnance Barracks at Kaiserslautern would be among the sites to be closed along with communications centres and warehouses in Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Britain and elsewhere in Germany. A total of 895 bases and military installations have been closed or reduced in the United States and abroad since 1990 for budget reasons.

Hata seeks talks with SDP leader

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata Friday called for talks with the head of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in a bid to make up with the former coalition member which angrily left the government in April. Mr. Hata made the remark during talks with Akira Yamagishi, president of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation, the nation's largest labour union, which supports the SDP. The prime minister told Mr. Yamagishi that "I wanted to hold a leaders' meeting with SDP Chairman Tomichi Murayama" as early as next week. Mr. Hata said: "I heartfully hope that the SDP will return to the government as soon as possible." But Mr. Murayama separately said Friday that the SDP's return would require Mr. Hata's resignation and that the SDP was ready to submit a no-confidence motion in parliament if he did not voluntarily step down.

S. African neo-Nazis get death sentence

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Two senior members of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) were Friday given four death sentences each for their part in the killing of black civilians at a roadblock. The Supreme Court found that Deon Martin and Philipus Kloppers had led an AWB attack on "ordinary, completely innocent blacks" at a roadblock the white extremists had set up, pretending to

Blair wins support in U.K. labour

LONDON (R) — Tony Blair, a fresh-faced moderate, confirmed his position as front-runner to lead Britain's opposition labour party by winning the backing of a majority of his parliamentary colleagues. Mr. Blair, the party's home affairs spokesman, was nominated by an overwhelming 154 of labour's 269 members of parliament to succeed John Smith, who died of a heart attack on May 12. With Labour riding high after thrashing the ruling Conservatives in last week's European Parliament elections, Mr. Blair stands a good chance of becoming prime minister if, as widely expected, he wins the leadership race.

U.K. conservative party head quits

LONDON (R) — Sir Norman Fowler has stepped down as chairman of Britain's ruling Conservatives, days after the party slumped to its worst-ever defeat in elections to the European parliament. Sir Norman's resignation paves the way for beleaguered Prime Minister John Major, anxious to head off a possible challenge to his leadership in the autumn, to reassert his authority by shuffling his cabinet — probably next month. Sir Norman who served as a cabinet minister for 11 years under ex-Premier Margaret Thatcher until he quit in 1990 to spend more time with his family, said he would remain in his job until Mr. Major is ready to name a successor. Officials said Mr. Major would not rush into shaking up his ministerial team due to Sir Norman's long-anticipated resignation.

Kravchuk tours Ukraine provinces

KIEV (R) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, fresh from securing parliament's approval for his nominee for prime minister, took his increasingly promising re-election campaign to the armed forces. An opinion poll gave Mr. Kravchuk, the former Communist who led Ukraine to independence, a substantial lead for the first time in the campaign for the June 26 poll. A buoyant Kravchuk flew Thursday to the Black Sea port of Odessa, a Russian-speaking city sympathetic to his main rival, former Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma. He was shown on television presenting a ceremonial flag to a paratroop regiment of the city and then eating alongside soldiers in a mess hall. "The Ukrainian Armed Forces are prepared to defend their land and sovereignty and the inviolability of state borders," Ukrainiform news agency quoted him as telling servicemen. "But our army threatens no one." Mr. Kravchuk defended Ukraine's stand on offering the mainly ethnic Russian Crimean peninsula autonomy while insisting it remain within Ukraine.

Indian troops kill 19 militants

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian troops shot dead 10 Muslim separatist guerrillas in the state of Kashmir Friday after gunning down nine others overnight, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. The paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) killed eight militants in a fierce gunbattle which erupted when troops raided a village in the district of Anantnag, the news agency said. Six rifles were recovered from the site, officials said. The BSF killed two other militants in Pulwama town in southern Kashmir. Indian troops shot dead seven members of the Hizb-ul-Mujahadeen, Kashmir's dominant group, after laying siege to a village in a "major operation" in Baramulla district late Thursday, PTI said. The security forces Thursday also killed two other guerrillas, including a member of the Harakat-ul-Ansar group which abducted two Britons on July 7 and has demanded an end to army operations to facilitate their release.

6 teams to play 1st round matches today

Swiss aim for historic victory over U.S.

PONTIAC, Michigan (R) — Swiss coach Roy Hodgson is playing down his side's chances in their World Cup opener against the United States Saturday but the players know they must win to have any chance of qualifying from a tough Group A.

The Swiss, appearing in their first finals since 1966, should in theory be too strong for a U.S. team boasting only a few international class players.

But Hodgson insisted Thursday: "In reality the U.S. team is a lot stronger than many people realise. We don't fear them but we have a great deal of respect."

The Swiss players will have to deal with a huge hostile crowd in the unventilated indoor Pontiac Silverdome, which is likely to be humid and baking hot. It will be the first indoor game in World Cup history.

"We're not used to the heat and the humidity. We will be playing against 70,000 people — that won't be easy," said striker Stephane Chapuisat of Borussia Dortmund in Germany.

"We have three games and we have to win one of them."

Given that the other two teams in the group are Colombia and Romania, Saturday's game offers the Swiss the best chance to record their first World Cup finals victory since they beat Italy 4-1 June 23, 1954.

But the U.S. side, with six survivors from the team which lost all three opening round games in Italy four years ago, are confident the crowd, the heat and their greater experience will be a great benefit.

"The heat works to our advantage — we have played many times in Miami and Orlando and we know how to cope with these conditions," said assistant coach Timo Lickorski.

"The key is that our players know they can do it."

Silverdome Director Michael Abington told the local Oakland Press newspaper that the stadium "has great potential to be uncomfortable. Some players could



Today's matches:

U.S. vs. Switzerland in Detroit at 18.30 Amman time. Italy vs. Ireland in New York at 23.00 Amman time. Colombia vs. Romania in Los Angeles at 2.30 a.m. (Sunday) Amman time.

lose four kilos during the game."

U.S. striker Ernie Stewart said doctors had advised the side to drink liquids the whole time and to quaff two bottles of water just before going to bed.

The sides share some characteristics — both have foreign coaches, neither have a good World Cup record and both will be sporting top-class strikers.

Lickorski said the U.S. side's best hope would be to rely on the quick breaks, feeding the ball to forwards Eric Wynalda of Germany's VFB Bochum and Stewart, playing in the Netherlands.

"We are confident we have found some things we can take advantage of. Our players are very quick," he said.

Swiss hopes of opening up the hesitant U.S. defence took a knock Thursday when Stuttgart striker Adrian Knup, nursing an ankle injury, said he only had a 50-50 chance of playing.

The U.S. side also has problems up front. Striker Roy Wegerle, recovering from three major knee operations this year, will not start.

The two sides drew 1-1 in a friendly in January but none of the Swiss team who started that day are likely to be in the line-up.

Uncertain Italians face tough test against Irish

NEW YORK (R) — Triple champions Italy, dogged by uncertainties about their formation and tactics, face a daunting opening World Cup match against uncompromising Ireland Saturday.

The group E encounter has grabbed the imagination of the huge Irish and Italian communities in the New York area, with the 76,000-capacity Giants Stadium sold out months ago.

But Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi, whose team are among the pre-tournament favourites, seems less enthusiastic about it.

"Ireland are one of those teams you never really want to meet. They are strong, aggressive and highly competitive," he said this week. "You really know you've been in a game when you play them."

The Ireland squad mainly comprises journeymen professionals from English clubs but coach Jack Charlton, in charge since 1986, has welded them into a mighty effective unit, as recent wins over Germany and the Netherlands testify.

Man-for-man, Roberto Baggio, Franco Baresi and company are far superior to their Irish counterparts, but the Italians lack the cohesion and sense of purpose which make Charlton's team so hard to beat.

Injuries mean Charlton cannot call on veteran stopper Kevin Moran or tall striker Tony Casciaro Saturday.

Phil Babb of Coventry City is set to partner the solid Paul McGrath at the back while Motherwell's Tommy Coyne will forage alone up front in a 4-5-1 formation.

Strong-running midfielder Roy Keane, part of Manchester United's English double-

winning team is expected to play despite a nagging groin injury.

The pitch — 103 metres long and 66 wide — is tight and will help the Irish close down the Italians. The heat will also be a factor with temperatures expected in the 90s Fahrenheit and high humidity forecast.

There is a fear that the two teams will settle for a draw in the first match in a group which also includes Mexico and Norway. "If a draw is what we deserve then I will be happy with a draw," Sacchi has said countless times.

The fans are sure to provide a great atmosphere and the hope is that they get a match to savour.

Probable teams:

Italy: 1-Gianluca Pagliuca, 9-Mauro Tassotti, 4-Alessandro Costacurta, 6-Franco Baresi, 5-Paolo Maldini, 11-Demetrio Albertini, 13-Dino Baggio, 16-Roberto Donadoni, 20-Giuseppe Signori, 19-Daniele Massaro, 10-Roberto Baggio.

Ireland: 1-Pat Bonner, 2-Denis Irwin, 14-Phil Babb, 5-Paul McGrath, 3-Terry Phelan, 8-Ray Houghton, 10-John Sheridan, 6-Roy Keane, 7-Andy Townsend, 11-Simon Stanbury, 15-Tommy Coyne.

Kick-off: 2000 GMT (23:00 Amman time)



Spanish acrobats perform as they march Wednesday in the 'Chicago Welcomes the World Cup' parade along Michigan Ave. Below Bolivian dancers perform in front of their country's float Wednesday during the parade (AFP photo)



S. Arabian squad reach Washington at last

WASHINGTON (R) — Five days later than originally planned and more than five hours later than expected the Saudi Arabian World Cup squad finally arrived in Washington Thursday.

A 20-strong group, including members of the media and welcoming officials from the World Cup organisers, FIFA and several official interpreters were surrounded by 10 armed police and security guards when they greeted them.

The Saudi Arabians' plane from Atlantic City, New Jersey, had been prevented from taking off on time by electrical thunderstorms on the East Coast and when it landed it led to several smiles of surprise. The reason for the amusement was that instead of flying in a Saudi Airlines plane or a regular scheduled airline the squad had travelled in the New York Yankees baseball team's own Boeing 727, specially chartered for the job.

"I don't know why they've got that plane but I guess George Steinbrenner knows all about it," said Jett Mayhew, a spokeswoman for the handling company signature which helped organise the Saudis' travel. Steinbrenner is principal owner of the Yankees baseball team.

After the long delays, the waiting media, consisting mostly of Saudi Arabian television crews, were left frustrated as the players and their Argentine coach Jorge Solari transferred immediately from their plane to a waiting coach. A roped off area, secured by the armed police, ensured that reporters could not move close enough to begin interviews. FIFA's Spanish-speaking interpreter, who had waited at the airport to assist with any interviews, was left speechless. The Saudis, who meet the Netherlands in a group F fixture at the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Monday, were due to train at Georgetown University Thursday evening but a FIFA official said they had cancelled the session.

Asked for further information about the squad's training plans for the next three days, the official said: "They change their plans very rapidly. We just don't know what to expect right now."

Colombia ready for the ball to begin

LOS ANGELES (R) — Whether Colombia really are potential World Cup champions or just unworthy pretenders to the throne is still a matter for considerable debate.

But by the time the weekend is over, the world will have a far better idea of just how seriously to take Francisco Maturana's squad.

And while it is dangerous to read too much into any team's debut in such a gruelling tournament, a strong

showing against Romania Saturday (2.30 a.m. Sunday Amman time) will underline the feeling that the South Americans can mount a realistic challenge for the title.

Many observers favour them to top Group A, which also includes the United States and Switzerland.

But Romania will be no pushovers. Their coach Anghel Iordanescu may not be as flamboyant as his Colombian counterpart.

Performing well and winning under pressure is something Colombia have rarely done, and although their 5-0 win over Argentina in September was an astonishing victory, it was the exception rather than the rule.

So the stage is set for what should prove to be an absorbing first encounter between two countries who come from very different worlds but who both play with a latin temperament and style.

The game will focus on how the defences handle two highly volatile and dangerous attacking forces and whether the Colombian midfield of Carlos Valderrama and Freddy Rincon can dominate the likes of Dorinel Munteanu and Ionut Lupescu in what has the makings of a skilful midfield battle.

Colombia will pin their hopes up front on the tournament's possible golden boy Faustino Asprilla Adolfo "the Train" Valencia who will, if the heat does not derail him, spend most of the match trying to charge his way straight through the middle of the Romanian defence.

For their part the Colombian defence will have their work cut out trying to prevent Florin Raducioiu bewildering them with his magic — or the irrepressible Gheorghe Hagi peppering in shots from almost anywhere in the last third of the field.

Iordanescu closed his training sessions to the media after a Colombian television crew tried to film his players in their hotel rooms and eating their lunch.

Yugoslav Cup defies sanctions

BELGRADE (R) — Cameroun beat Yugoslavia one-nil in the 1994 "World Cup" finals Thursday night as Belgraders mimicked the soccer competition their national team has been excluded from by a U.N. embargo.

Scorning the official American version, 25 amateur Yugoslav mini-soccer teams have gathered over the last few days to compete on a school playground, each

faithfully attired in the national colours of the country they have chosen to represent.

The competing teams played in groups, mirroring the draw for the real thing getting under way in Chicago Friday, according to independent TV station Studio B, which televised the event. The Yugoslav national mini-soccer team was the 25th entrant. The television station re-

ported enthusiastic crowds of more than 1,500, despite torrential rain showers during some of the five-a-side matches.

The rump Yugoslavia, now comprising only Serbia and Montenegro after other republics won independence, was barred from international sporting in 1992 as part of a package of punishments for aiding warring Serbs in Bosnia.

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Head of Chairman Board
Hisham Asfour

100 officials sent to World Cup

Romanian press criticises government's cup binge

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian newspapers on Friday criticised the minority left-wing government over plans to send a large number of senior officials to the World Cup soccer at public expense to improve Romania's image.

The balkan country's top-selling dailies Adevarul and Evenimentul Zilei said plans to send 100 or so top officials to the United States were a waste of money.

Adevarul said the operation was costing \$1 million. The daily Tineretul Liber added that Romania would be represented at the World Cup by a "government in exile" with most cabinet ministers away at the soccer.

The government spokesman was unavailable to comment on the criticisms but his office said a statement would be made later.

"In the U.S. there certainly will be many personalities from the whole world. The difference between them and the one hundred Romanian officials is that the others have paid for the trip from their own pockets," Adevarul said in an editorial.

It said Romanians would be told afterwards that the visit was an image-building success but "in fact the only aftermath of the visit will be the one million spent dollars."

A U.S. embassy source told Reuters many Romanian officials were for visas but the source denied President Ion Iliescu, Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu, or Youth Minister Alexandru Mironov, were among them, as alleged by Evenimentul Zilei.



Agent of Orlane opens beauty, skin care centre

Oweider Trading Establishment, the agents of the French Orlane Company in Jordan Thursday held a press conference at the Marriott Hotel during which it announced the establishment of its Beauty and Skin Care Centre in Amman. Attending the press conference were Claude Ury, Orlane's President International, Philippe Dumas, Director of Export, Sandra Cazade, Training Manager and Ali Oweider Director General of Oweider Trading Establishment. They briefed the audience on the company's product lines, the features of their products and their status in the world markets. They also answered questions put forward to them by the audience, about Orlane products and future plans.

Orlane was the innovator in discovering and introducing active ingredients in creams, royal jelly and using them in their beauty products. Orlane devoted its time to women and its effort to meet and satisfy its customers needs. Due to this, since 1990 onwards, Orlane has introduced different product lines that are of an appealing nature. The products vary from extraordinary lipstick, clitoral mascara, powder, blusher and the compact powder, to the final touch of eyeliner which was specifically designed to give extra width, depth and intensity, with nourishing action since it contains vitamin B6.

Since customers are becoming more demanding and require positive solutions, Orlane had introduced different choices for skin treatment and that proved to be reliable. For example Chronosvelt (outstanding slimming gel). Customers should not worry concerning which decision to make, since Orlane is providing adequate advice to give the right treatment to the right skin in its beauty institute. Of course, one should not neglect Orlane fragrances which enhances each woman's personality. The Floral Fleurs d'Orlane and the Eau d'Orlane. Certainly Orlane did not forget that woman like its product to have a lush and elegant package, this was met. In fact its package with the blue and silver colour and the rings gives such a visual reality which is so appealing that it would be hard to dispose.

The final touch of perfection especially made for the summer months of 1994, Orlane had introduced a thrilling full make-up range Clair d'Eté, with different light colours. Hence, Orlane is the woman's best companion.



New York Knicks' John Starks (centre) drives to the basket between Houston Rockets' Eugene Olatunji (L) and Robert Horry (R) during the third quarter of game four of the NBA finals at Madison Square Garden Thursday. The Knicks defeated the Rockets 92-81 to even the best-of-seven series 2-2 (AFP photo)

Pierce and Navratilova share spotlight with Graf

LONDON (R) — The rapid rise of Mary Pierce and the slow and dignified descent into retirement of Martina Navratilova lead the Wimbledon women's singles an enchantment out of line with its recent problems.

And the prospect of a serious first round challenge to holder Steffi Graf next week could also help dispel, at least briefly, the widespread feeling that women's tennis lacks depth since the then world number one Monica Seles was sidelined by a knife attack 14 months ago.

The physical and psychological scars which have kept Seles out of the sport since the assault during a tournament in Hamburg have also dealt a huge blow to the women's game despite Graf's domination.

The blow has been compounded by the loss of Jennifer Capriati to belated adolescence while such former contenders as Gabriela Sabatini and Mary Joe Fernandez have slipped backwards instead of moving up to fill the void created by Seles.

So it was a stroke of great timing for the game when Pierce, after showing the potential for so long, finally made the major breakthrough by reaching the French Open final last month.

The 19-year-old Canadian-born, U.S.-raised Frenchwoman rampaged through the first five rounds and then walloped Graf in the semifinal before succumbing to the disciplined defence of Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the final.

The tall blonde with huge star appeal had to take the crucial step of outlasting her overbearing father to fulfil her obvious potential.

Now she is trying to fathom the mysteries of grass court tennis and, despite a Thursday defeat in the junior event at Eastbourne, has impressed no less a judge than Navratilova with her ability.

"She has the potential to be a star and also to be world number one," said Navratilova, who practised with Pierce in London last week.

"You cannot create stars. They have to create themselves. People either have it or they don't. It can tell you, she smacks the ball out of the ball. She hits it hard on any surface."

Seeded seventh, Pierce faces a tough baptism against compatriot Julie Halard in the first round and if she survives will meet one of two

past stars, Czech Helena Sukova or American Tracy Austin.

Despite her defeat by young Czech Ludmila Varuzova Thursday, Pierce will have learned a lot in Paris. "People keep telling me it was only my first final and there will be many others," she said.

Navratilova, meanwhile, is on a last-chance visit to Wimbledon to try and add to her record nine titles there before dropping out of competitive singles at the end of this season.

The 37-year-old Czech-born American has been saying farewell to venues all over the world and Thursday it was Eastbourne's turn as she slumped to defeat in the quarter-finals of the grass-court tournament she has traditionally used as a Wimbledon warm-up.

The next fortnight could be heart-rending but Navratilova is steeling herself for the challenge.

"If I go into it thinking about it being my last Wimbledon I won't be able to hit a ball. There'll be plenty of time for crying when the last match is over," she said.

She has a good draw, at least until a possible fourth-round clash with giant U.S. teenager Lindsay Davenport.

Then she could face Czech Jana Novotna, who beat her in last year's semifinals, while Sanchez Vicario is her projected semifinal opponent.

Graf, meanwhile, faces the real challenge of American Lori McNeil in her first match.

McNeil, 30, has a natural serve-and-volley game and won the Birmingham tournament last week. Though she was beaten by Australian Kristine Radford at Eastbourne Wednesday, she poses a genuine threat to Graf.

Graf could, of course, win easily and sail untroubled through the tournament to her sixth triumph in seven years.

If she does, and Pierce is not up to the demands of the grass court game while Navratilova goes out with a whimper rather than a roar the women's game would be right back where it has been since the fateful attack on Seles by a knife-wielding man in Hamburg last year.

CANADA DAY

In celebration of Canada Day, Canadian citizens in Jordan are invited to attend a picnic which will be held on Friday, July 1st, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Yajuz area. Activities will include a barbecue, live music and door prizes.

Canadians interested in attending should bring proof of citizenship to the Embassy to obtain free entrance tickets, a map and information sheet. The Embassy will not provide transportation.

Fête du Canada

A l'occasion de la Fête du Canada, les Canadiennes et les Canadiens résidents en Jordanie sont cordialement invités à un pique-nique qui aura lieu vendredi le premier juillet à Yajuz de 17h00 à 20h00. Il y aura pour cette occasion un barbecue, de la musique et des prix. Les Canadiens désirant participer sont priés de se présenter à l'ambassade avec preuve de citoyenneté pour obtenir un carton d'entrée, un plan et un feuillet de renseignements. L'ambassade ne fournit pas le transport au site.

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Drawing of June 17, 1994

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NORTH
♠ K 9 8 6
♥ A 10 9 8
♦ J 6 5
♣ J 4

WEST
♠ Q 2
♥ K 3
♦ 10 7 4 3
♣ A 10 9 2

EAST
♠ 7 5 4
♥ Q 5 4
♦ A Q 2
♣ Q 8 7 3

SOUTH
♠ A J 10 3
♥ J 7 6 2
♦ K 9
♣ K 6 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 Pass 2 Pass
Pass 2 NT 3 Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of
Bridge is a funny game. Declarer took the percentage play in a side suit, which turned out to be wrong on the lie of cards, but became a winner for another reason entirely! North-South were playing four-card majors (yes, such people do exist), and the choice of one-heart as the opening bid was to make sure that suit did not get lost in the auction. West refused to sell out to two hearts and the balancing bid of two no trump requested partner to bid a

minor. North's three hearts ended the auction.
East won the opening diamond lead with the ace and returned the deuce to declarer's king. A low heart to the eight lost to the queen and, rather than help declarer by returning a minor, East exited with a trump. West's king being captured by the ace.

The bidding and East's revelation of the ace of diamonds at the first trick marked West with the ace of clubs, so declarer had no thought of leading a club toward the king. Leaving one trump outstanding, declarer eliminated diamonds with a ruff, led the jack of spades to the king and then ran the nine of spades—since West was known to be short in spades, East was more likely to hold the queen.

When West produced that card, it seemed that all was lost. However, West was now trapped in an end-play. A club return would limit declarer's losses in that suit to one trick and a diamond would permit declarer to discard a club from the table while ruffing in hand. Eventually, declarer would get to the board by ruffing a minor suit, drawing the last trump and cashing the spades for nine tricks.

	Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144	Cinema PLAZA Tel.: 699238	Cinema CONCORD Tel.: 677420	Cinema AMMOUN THEATRE Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Cinema Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel.: 675571	Cinema Nabil & Hisham's AHLAN THEATRE Tel.: 625155
TODAY	Tom Cruise & Holly Hunter in The Firm Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00	Farouq Al Fishawi/Fifi Abdo in The Night of Murder (ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' LOVER BOY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' THE GETAWAY Shows: 12:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15	Soon the new play!!!	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Present their play: WHAT A PLACE! (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tuesdays.

Police feud hits Arafat

TUNIS (AP) — Yasser Arafat sought Friday to resolve a power struggle between two Palestinian police chiefs which threatens to tear apart his security apparatus in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as he prepares to move there.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Arafat summoned top aides to an emergency overnight meeting after the conflict between General Nasr Yousef and Colonel Jibril Rajoub erupted.

The dispute added another concern to a long list of organisational, financial and security problems that have prevented Mr. Arafat from setting a date for his move to Jericho, seat of the Palestinians' embryonic self-rule government.

PLO sources said a heated argument between Gen. Yousef and Col. Rajoub in Arafat's presence degenerated into a scuffle, with the men threatening each other. They gave few details of what lay behind the dispute, but it was believed to center on conflicting operational priorities.

Mr. Yousef, 57, is overall commander of the 9,000-strong Palestinian force that began taking over control of Jericho and Gaza after Israeli troops withdrew in mid-May. A member of the Central Committee of Fateh, Mr. Arafat's mainstream faction, the Gaza-born Yousef was formerly deputy political commissioner for the Palestine Liberation Army, the PLO's military arm.

Col. Rajoub, 47, is Mr. Arafat's internal security chief and a key figure in the territories. He is a veteran Fateh activist who was expelled by Israel in 1988 for being a key organiser of the Palestinian uprising in the territories.

He was sent to Jericho last month to set up a so-called "protective security" appar-

atus to shield Mr. Arafat and his top aides when they move to the West Bank town, which will be the capital of the self-rule zone.

Col. Rajoub also has the task of suppressing any subversion by radical factions opposed to Mr. Arafat and his limited autonomy peace deal.

Mr. Arafat, concerned that the problem would lead to a clash in the restive territories, summoned Fateh's ruling Central Committee to a late night session to map out specific duties for Yousef and Col. Rajoub to avoid another clash.

It was not clear whether the problem had been solved. But the PLO sources expressed fears that if the power struggle was not quickly contained it could lead to a confrontation between the two chiefs' followers in the territories.

The internal feud within Fateh overshadowed the mission of a three-man World Bank delegation, which arrived Thursday to discuss with a Palestinian economic board the disposition of financial aid promised by international donors to help Palestinian self-rule get off the ground.

PLO sources who have refused to identify the world bank envoys said they met Thursday with Mr. Arafat's right-hand man, Farouk Kaddoumi, and more closed-door talks were expected Friday.

Mr. Kaddoumi heads the 12-member Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction which was set up after the Sept. 13 PLO-Israeli autonomy accord to oversee the disposition of \$2 billion pledged by international donors.

Last week, donors promised an immediate \$42 million to help set up a Palestinian national authority, the interim body which will govern until elections are held, in Jericho and pay salaries until August.

600 Palestinians get Israeli entry permit

By Marissa M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Israeli government has approved the entry of up to 600 Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) personnel including all members of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) in preparation for the expected entry of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to the Palestinian autonomous territories, PLO sources said Friday.

The Israeli-approved list, which includes PLO activists, includes PLO officials from Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, is the first to include members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). Both groups reject the peace process.

Up to 400 names of PLO activists, including members of women's organisations and medical organisations and administrative officials were approved Thursday and up to 100 more were passed through Gaza-based PLO officials to Tunis on Friday.

The PLO had submitted large lists to the Israelis and now they are flowing back to Tunis. Most members of the PCC were also given clearance by the Israeli authorities by Friday.

There was, however, a "B list" and "C list," according to PLO sources in Amman. These were still subject to further security checks by Israelis and in the case of "list C" — which contained the names of those who were

refused entry. "The PLO sources in Amman did not have the names of the people refused entry."

The names included in the list of 600 are both from Gaza and the West Bank and include several hundred Fateh-affiliated activists, independents, about 25 FIDA members, 19 members of the PFLP and a handful of DFLP members.

Former militant activists and political prisoners expelled by Israel are among those whose names were approved. The timing of the approval is in synchronisation with the expected entry of Mr. Arafat and an effort to make the Palestinian National Authority operational within the next few weeks.

The timing of Mr. Arafat's entry, initially tipped to have been on June 5, is still uncertain. Many PLO officials now say that it will not be until after the July 6 ceremony in Paris in which the PLO chairman and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will receive a special U.N. prize for their role in the Middle East peace process.

International funding is among the points of contention said to have delayed the PLO chairman's entry into Jericho and Gaza. World Bank officials were in Tunis to discuss the channelling of funds.

Mr. Arafat is said to be angered by the World Bank's insistence that the funding be given directly to government agencies or projects.

Regional group sees huge Mideast potential

RABAT (Agencies) — Regional trade in the Middle East could rise from the current \$100 million to several billion dollars a year, a multi-lateral conference was told.

In a report to the 5th meeting of the regional economic development working group, the German delegation said: "Instead of the current \$100 million in regional trade, a potential of several billion dollars can be assumed."

"In the area of industrial manufactured products ... it is mainly Israel which is a

potential supplier to the other countries of the region," the report said.

"Currently cross-border business cooperation does not even exist in a rudimentary form. For this reason, the potential when trade restrictions are removed cannot be assessed high enough," it added.

Axel Halbach, of the German federal ministry of economics, said: "A comprehensive common Middle East market can certainly only be created in a very long-term view."



Palestinians break into a house that was sealed three years ago by Israeli authorities in an Arab neighbourhood of East Jerusalem on Friday (AFP photo)

Continued Mideast strife threatens to trigger other conflict — Regent

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has said that Jordan is facing real challenges in its quest to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, warning that the continuation of Arab-Israeli conflict would trigger various other world conflicts.

In a lecture delivered at the Royal War College, on Thursday, the Regent said that the interests of nations have become closely linked to a degree that small nations have lost part of their freedoms, with the result that these states' decisions have become influenced to a large

extent by the international community more than the countries' own and regional requirements.

In reviewing the developments in the peace process, the Regent said that Middle East peace had acquired a top priority on the world community's agenda. He reiterated that Jordan remains totally committed to just peace and its stand is assuming a fundamental move on the ground.

Along with the senior Armed Forces officers, the lecture was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Thagwan Hindawi and Minister of Information Jawad Al Anani

among other senior officials.

AYF recommendations

The Arab Youth Forum (AYF) meeting, which was opened by the Regent Wednesday, concluded its sessions which covered wide-ranging issues including the peace process and pan-Arab affairs.

Meeting in its final session Thursday evening, the participants issued a set of recommendations which, among other things, called for reviving the activities of Arab youth camps, promoting con-

cern in pan-Arab heritage with the purpose of further deepening national sense of belonging among the Arab youth, expanding the membership of AYF, adopting measures that would further enhance closer relations among the youth of the Arab World, emphasising the need to enhance democracy and democratic rule in the Arab World as a means towards helping Arab countries to achieve unity and issuing an appeal to the Yemeni leaders to stop the bloodshed and resort to negotiations rather than confrontation to bring back peace to the country.

IAF wants Majali to seek new confidence vote

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF), suggesting that the government is operating without a vote of confidence from the Lower House of Parliament, has urged Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to seek the confidence of the House on the basis of a new policy statement.

If Dr. Majali fails to secure a mandate from the House, a "national unity" government representing all shades of the political spectrum should be formed, the IAF said in a statement Thursday.

The IAF said the change of more than half of members of the Cabinet in the recent reshuffle left only seven ministers who enjoy "the

weak mandate" the government won from the House when it sought its confidence in December. Accordingly, the government should seek the confidence of the House anew, it said.

Criticising the government for changing the Elections Law and dissolving the 11th Parliament last year, the front charged Dr. Majali with reshuffling the Cabinet instead of fully changing it to avoid a confidence session in the House.

The front, which has 16 deputies in the House, also charged that the government reversed an earlier decision to exclude lawmakers from the executive authority in order to win support for its drive to conclude a "surrender" treaty with Israel.

"Deputies who withheld confidence from the government of Dr. Majali but joined it in the reshuffle" also came under fire from the front, which questioned "how those deputies would support the policies of the government, while their no confidence vote in it indicates they reject these policies?"

Deputy Abdul Rauf Al Rawabdeh had cast a no confidence vote in the government, but he agreed to join it as minister for state and minister of education.

The reshuffle, which brought 18 new ministers to an expanded 31-member Cabinet, also portends the government's underestimation of the role of political parties as they were not con-

sulted about it, said the front, whose deputies remain in the opposition.

The reshuffle also caused confusion to the House and its blocs, which were kept out of the negotiations over the reshuffle, said the front.

The front demanded that lawmakers and political parties and activists cooperate to "consolidate national unity and ... prevent normalisation with the Zionist enemy."

The front also urged lawmakers to work against the "marginalisation" of the role of the House. Many deputies expressed discontent with the government for failing to consult with parliamentary blocs before introducing the reshuffle and vowed to reassert the role of the legislature in the government structure.

Activist breaks open sealed Palestinian homes

IZZARIYA (AP) — Swinging a hammer and a crowbar, an Arab-American human rights activist Friday broke open a home sealed by Israeli troops five years ago to punish a Palestinian activist.

"When you want real peace, this is an obstacle to peace," said Mubarak Awad, of Washington D.C., speaking outside the home of the Al Masri family in this West Bank village on Jerusalem's outskirts.

Mr. Awad said there were about 350 sealed homes in the West Bank and Arab East Jerusalem, all belonging to families of activists jailed during the seven-year uprising against Israeli occupation.

International human rights organisations have denounced house sealings as collective punishment.

Dr. Awad said he and others hoped to break open 30 homes Friday.

At the Al Masri house, women ululated when Awad and supporters used a crow bar and power saw to pry open the main iron door, soldered shut by Israeli troops in 1989.

"This is a great moment," said Samer Al Masri, 22, the young activist whose jailings prompted the sealing. Al Masri served four years in prison for throwing stones and membership in the then-outlawed Fateh, today the main supporter of the autonomy negotiations with Israel.

"Until this day, I've felt guilty because my family had to leave the house because of me," said Mr. Masri, a supporter of the peace process who was released from prison last year and now sells pizza in a Jewish neighbourhood of Jerusalem.

During the past five years, the Masris and their five children have lived in a rented apartment nearby. Samer Al Masri said that the supreme court rejected an appeal by his family to have the four-room, one-storey house reopened.

Israeli troops stayed away during Friday's "break-in." Army officials said they were checking whether troops would attempt to re-close any of the homes.

Dr. Awad said the Masris had a moral right to return to their home, especially at a time when Israel and the Palestinians were making peace.

"I feel that peace is more important than the law," said the Jerusalem-born Awad, an advocate of non-violent resistance to occupation who was expelled by Israel in 1988 on grounds that he had stayed abroad for too long and failed to renew his residency permit.

COLUMN

Artefacts show last-minute looting on Titanic

LONDON (R) — A gladdening bag rescued from the wreckage of the Titanic paints a picture of the last terrifying moments of the sinking liner, British Museum workers said. Stephen Deuchar of the National Maritime Museum, who is helping to put together an exhibition of items taken from the wreckage at the bottom of the Atlantic, said there was no other realistic explanation for what was found in the bag. "It seems to us... the bag had belonged to a thief or a looter or someone who grabbed what he or she could find in those presumably frightening, chaotic moments before the ship sank."

Mr. Deuchar said in a telephone interview. "It contained quite a wide range of material, mostly valuables by which I include cash — American dollars as well as Canadian dollars."

It also contained "male and female jewellery and items that as far as we can tell must have belonged to a range of people." The bag, recovered in one of the first diving missions to the wreckage in 1987, was being restored and Mr. Deuchar hoped it could be included in the exhibition due to open in October. He said it illustrated how people behave in extreme circumstances. "You very frequently hear of looting and a suspension of normal moral and ethical behaviour," he said. "One can speculate endlessly about why the Titanic is so fascinating. It's something about plucking 2,000 people from every walk of society, every culture... in kind of a Noah's Ark principle you take two of everything and put them in a ship... and expose them to the most dreadful crisis."

Every kind of human behaviour "from the most admirable to the most awful" follows, Mr. Deuchar said — and the artefacts taken from the Titanic illustrated this. "It's almost too good to be true. It's the world of 1912 in that ship." More than 1,500 passengers of the "unsinkable" ocean liner drowned when it struck an iceberg on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York on April 15, 1912. The wreckage was discovered in 1985 lying nearly three miles down in international waters off the coast of Canada.

Young Charles embarrassed by royal announcement

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Charles was "mortally embarrassed" in front of his young school friends when he first learned at the age of nine that he was going to be the next Prince of Wales. In an interview with BBC Wales TV aired Friday the 45-year-old heir to the throne recalled the painful moment. "I was mortally embarrassed. You can imagine, nine years old, in front of everybody else. It was rather embarrassing," he said. "They all turned and looked at me you see when the announcement was made on the television. It wasn't a question of saying, you know, 'yippie, I've become the Prince of Wales. How frightfully exciting everybody'. The prince also described the pressures of being a member of Britain's royal family and expressed sympathy for his young son Prince William who will succeed him on the throne. "The scrutiny and interference is just beyond description and I personally don't envy him at all," he said in the interview to mark the 25th anniversary of his investiture as the Prince of Wales. The title, which is reserved exclusively for the heir apparent to the British throne, dates back to 1301. In a separate interview, Prince Charles, who separated from his wife Princess Diana 18 months ago and has suffered badly in popularity polls, said he hoped the title would continue after him. "I would hope so, but obviously it depends on my son and whether he wants to do it but it would probably be a long time hence," he said. "But at least he won't have to sit in front of the television with all his colleagues at school at the age of nine and suddenly be told that he's becoming Prince of Wales."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Holst widow to work for UNRWA

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Marianne Heiberg, widow of the Middle East peace broker, Norwegian Foreign Minister John Joergen Holst, said she would soon begin work with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Jerusalem. "I'll be moving to Jerusalem with my children in about the middle of August in order to take up a new position as deputy director of UNRWA in Jerusalem from the first of September," Ms. Heiberg told Israel radio in an interview broadcast on Friday. A Middle East researcher, Heiberg was in Israel receiving a posthumous award to Mr. Holst from Hebrew University's Truman Institute. Holst, who died suddenly of a stroke in January, was instrumental as Norway's foreign minister in achieving the interim peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiated secretly last year in Oslo.

Qadhafi suggests partition of Rwanda

TUNIS (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has told three fellow African leaders that the only solution to the bloodletting in Rwanda is partition of the country between the rival Hutu and Tutsi tribes. The official Libyan news agency JANA said on Friday that Colonel Qadhafi made the suggestion at a meeting in Tripoli with Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso, Mhamane Ousmane of Niger and Alpha Omar Konare of Mali. "There were similar massacres in 1959 and 1973," Colonel Qadhafi said during the Thursday night meeting. "The only way to prevent further slaughter between Tutsis and Hutus is to have international forces interpose between them and separate them."

Dehaene declares EU candidacy

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene has declared himself an official candidate to replace Jacques Delors as president of the European Commission, the Belgian government announced here Friday. The declared candidates for the post are the outgoing Dutch prime minister Ruud Lubbers, and the European Union's (EU) British trade commissioner, Leon Brittan. EU leaders are scheduled to decide on Mr. Delors's successor at their 31-yearly summit on the Greek island of Corfu next Friday and Saturday.

Algerian premier seeks EU support

BRUSSELS (R) — Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi will visit European Union (EU) headquarters shortly before next week's EU Corfu summit to urge strong support for his

government as it struggles against an Islamic fundamentalist challenge. Mr. Sifi will meet European Commission President Jacques Delors on Wednesday and then hold a news conference after talks on Tuesday with Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene. A team of commission officials visited Algiers on Friday to open exploratory talks with the Algerian authorities on a possible partnership agreement with the EU, similar to accords currently being negotiated with Morocco and Tunisia.

Gorbachev to be indicted in Lithuania

MOSCOW (AFP) — The federal prosecutor in Lithuania plans to indict former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for his role in crushing the 1991 protest by separatists in Vilnius, a Lithuanian newspaper reported Friday. The article in the weekly Respublika cited by local press reports here, says that an investigation of the incident which left 13 people dead, showed that Mr. Gorbachev was "fully aware of the plot" to crush the separatists seeking their country's independence from the Soviet Union. The prosecutor's office in Lithuania refused to confirm or deny the report Friday. Respublika said that the case would be forwarded to the Lithuanian supreme court this summer. But a majority of those named in the case have since left the country and adopted citizenship in Russia or Belarus, the paper added.

213 Former Begin contemporary dies in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (AP) — Yohanan Bader, a founding father of Israel's right-wing Likud Party and former guerrilla fighter, died Friday. He was 93. Funeral services were held Friday in Tel Aviv, said Likud Party spokesman Zvioka Hauser. Bader, a lawyer born in Cracow, Poland, served 28 years in parliament in the opposition led by Menachem Begin. He retired when the party rose to power in 1977. While out of the limelight, Bader was known to play a behind-the-scenes advisory role when Begin became prime minister. Bader, known for his good humour and wit, was the only man capable of overcoming the chilliness between Begin and David Ben-Gurion, leader of the Labour Party and Israel's first premier.

Greek composer dies in Athens

ATHENS (R) — Greek composer Manos Hadjidakis, known for his lively music for the film Never on Sunday, died after being rushed to hospital, Greek radios said. A reporter at the hospital for private Flash Radio said Hadjidakis, 68, was dead on arrival. He had suffered from heart problems in recent years. Sources at the Evangelismos Hospital said Hadjidakis died from a swelling of the lungs caused by complications from heart problems.

Handwritten note in Arabic script: "هذا هو الملك"